

JOHN M. BETHEA STATE FOREST

2015

10-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXHIBITS

Exhibit M

Florida Natural Areas Inventory Response



1018 Thomasville Road
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June 5, 2014

Jennifer Reed
FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Florida Forest Service
Conner Bldg., 3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Dear Ms. Reed,

Thank you for requesting information from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). We have compiled the following information for your project area.

Project: John M. Bethea State Forest
Date Received: 5/29/2014
Location: Baker County

FNAI Element Occurrences

A search of our maps and database indicates that we currently have several element occurrences mapped in the vicinity of the study area (see enclosed map and element occurrence table). Please be advised that a lack of element occurrences in the FNAI database is not a sufficient indication of the absence of rare or endangered species on a site.

Federally Listed Species

Our data include records of federally listed species, particularly *Picoides borealis* (Red-cockaded Woodpecker), on or very near this site (see enclosed map and tables for details). This statement should not be interpreted as a legal determination of presence or absence of federally listed species on a property.

The FNAI Element Occurrences data layer includes rigorously documented occurrences of rare species and natural communities. For animals and plants, element occurrences generally refer to more than a casual sighting; they usually indicate a viable population of the species. Note that some element occurrence labels indicate the general vicinity of the occurrence. This may be due to lack of precision of the source data, or an element that covers an extended area (such as a wide-ranging species or large natural community). Note that some element occurrences represent historically documented observations which may no longer be extant. Extirpated element occurrences will be marked with an 'X' following the occurrence label on the enclosed map.



Florida Resources
and Environmental
Analysis Center

Institute of Science
and Public Affairs

The Florida State University

*Several of the species and natural communities tracked by the Inventory are considered **data sensitive**. Occurrence records for these elements contain information that we consider sensitive due to collection pressures, extreme rarity, or at the request of the source of the information. The Element Occurrence Record has been labeled "Data Sensitive." We request that you not publish or release specific locational data about these species or communities without consent from the Inventory. If you have any questions concerning this please do not hesitate to call.*

Tracking Florida's Biodiversity

Biodiversity Matrix

In addition to element occurrences, other rare species and natural communities may be identified on or near the site based on habitat models and species range models. The Biodiversity Matrix Report compiles several data sources – including Element Occurrences, occurrence-based species habitat models, predictive range models, and natural community maps – to provide a broader list of documented, likely, and potential species on or near the site. These species could be taken into consideration in field surveys, land management, and land use decisions. Note that the Biodiversity Matrix Report lists species and communities by square-mile Matrix Unit, rather than by the site of interest, so the Documented list may vary from the Element Occurrence Table supplied with this report. Also, note that this list aggregates results from all matrix units that overlap the site, so the location of the elements are somewhat obscured.

FNAI occurrence-based habitat models indicate areas, which based on land cover type, offer suitable habitat for one or more rare species that is known to occur in the vicinity. Habitat models have been developed for approximately 300 of the rarest species tracked by the Inventory, including all federally listed species.

FNAI species predictive range models indicate areas that are within the known or predicted range of a species, based on climate variables, soils, vegetation, and/or slope. Species range models have been developed for approximately 340 species, including all federally listed species.

The FNAI Biodiversity Matrix Geodatabase compiles Documented, Likely, and Potential species and natural communities for each square mile Matrix Unit statewide.

Land Acquisition Projects

This site appears to be located within the Pinhook Swamp Florida Forever BOT Project, which is part of the State of Florida's Conservation and Recreation Lands land acquisition program. A description of this project is enclosed. For more information on this Florida Forever Project, contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands.

Florida Forever Board of Trustees (BOT) projects are proposed and acquired through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands. The state has no specific land management authority over these lands until they are purchased.

The Inventory always recommends that professionals familiar with Florida's flora and fauna conduct a site-specific survey to determine the current presence or absence of rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Please visit www.fnai.org/trackinglist.cfm for county or statewide element occurrence distributions and links to more element information.

The database maintained by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory is the single most comprehensive source of information available on the locations of rare species and other significant ecological resources. However, the data are not always based on comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Therefore this information should not be regarded as a final statement on the biological resources of the site being considered, nor should it be substituted for on-site surveys. Inventory data are designed for the purposes of conservation planning and scientific research, and are not intended for use as the primary criteria for regulatory decisions.

Information provided by this database may not be published without prior written notification to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, and the Inventory must be credited as an information source in these publications. FNAI data may not be resold for profit.

This report is made available at no charge due to funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands.

Thank you for your use of FNAI services. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (850) 224-8207 or at npasco@fnai.org.

Sincerely,

Nathan Pasco

Nathan Pasco
GIS / Data Services

Encl

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Element Occurrences

- Animals
- Plants
- Communities
- Other
- Data Sensitive
- Point Indicates General Vicinity of Element

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Scrub Jay Survey 1992-96

Conservation Lands

- Federal
- State
- Local
- Private
- State Aquatic Preserves

Land Acquisition Projects

- Florida Forever
- Board of Trustees Projects

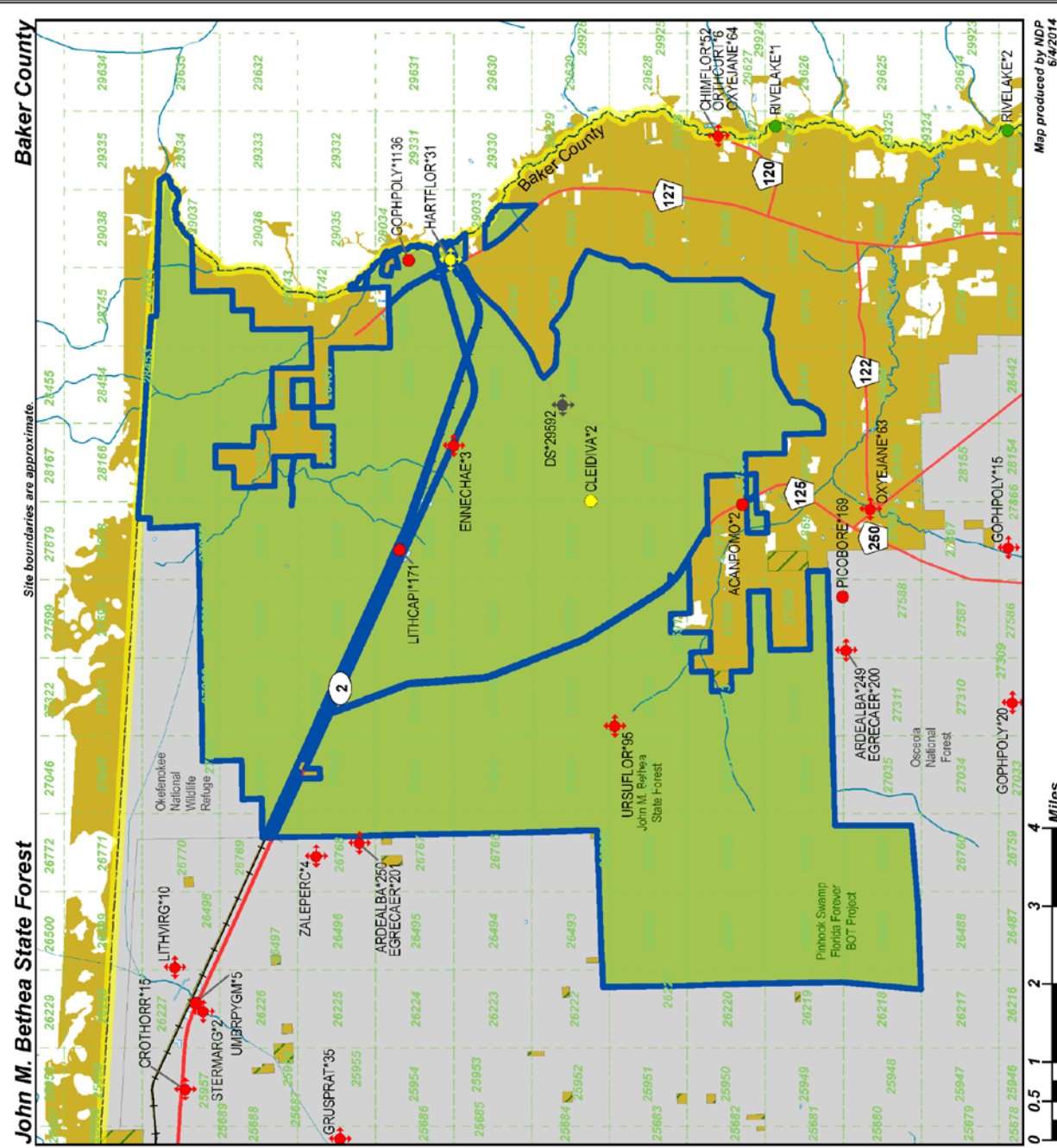
FNAI Rare Species

- Habitat
- FNAI Biodiversity Matrix
- Square Mile Units

County Boundary

- Interstate
- Turnpike
- Major Highway
- Local Road
- Railroad (Inactive railroads shown in Gray)
- Water

NOTE
Map should not be interpreted without accompanying documents.



Map produced by NDP
6/4/2014



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FNAI ELEMENT OCCURRENCE REPORT on or near John M. Bethea State Forest



Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global State Federal State	Rank	Status	Listing	Observation	Date	Description	EO Comments
ACANPOM02	<i>Acantharchus pomotis</i>	Mud Sunfish	G4G5	S3	N	N	N	1947-02-02	No general description given	1947-02-02: one specimen collected (UF-007503) (U90FSM01FLUS).
ARDEALBA*249	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	G5	S4	N	N	N	1987-05-14	Lake, oldfield community, clearcuts north and east of site.	1987/05/14: D.E. Runde, GFC; count of GREG nests from frame 4. "Total" = B (also includes LBHE?).
ARDEALBA*250	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	G5	S4	N	N	N	1987-05-14	1987-05-14: Cypress swamp, shrubs, with pine plantations to south and east (U97GFC02FLUS).	1987-05-14: D.E. Runde, GFC; Count of GREG nests and individual CAEG from frame 13. "Total" = C (also includes GBHE, LBHE?) (U97GFC02FLUS).
GLEIDIVA*2	<i>Cleistes divaricata</i>	Large Rosebud Orchid	G4	S1	N	N	LT	2004-06-16	2004-06-16: Pine plantation (historically mesic flatwoods) that recently had every third row of trees removed, causing great disturbance. Closed canopy of <i>Pinus elliotii</i> with dense but disturbed shrub layer including <i>Serenoa repens</i> , <i>Ilex glabra</i> , <i>Vaccini</i>	2004-06-16: 12 plants observed, all in leaf, scattered in 7 locations (see general comments for flat/long locations) in disturbed pine plantation (F04FNA09FLUS).
DS*2892	<i>Data Sensitive Element</i>	Data Sensitive	G5	S3?	N	N	N	2005-04-20	Data Sensitive	Data Sensitive
EGRECAER*200	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron	G5	S4	N	N	SSC	1987-05-14	Lake; clearcuts north and east of site.	1987/05/14: D.E. Runde, GFC, observation. "Total" = B (also includes LBHE?). Vulture roost here in 1987.
EGRECAER*201	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron	G5	S4	N	N	SSC	1988-05-19	cypress swamp, shrubs, with pine plantations to south and east.	1987/05/14: D.E. Runde, GFC, observation. Count of GREG nests and individual CAEG from frame 13. "Total" = C (also includes GBHE, LBHE?). 1988/05/19: P. D. Southall, GFC, observation. "Total" = D (includes CAEG, LBHE, ANH, SMWHITE). Count made from aeri
ENNECHAE*3	<i>Enneacanthus chaetodon</i>	Blackbanded Sunfish	G3G4	S3	N	N	N	1968-03	borrow pit	1968-03: one specimen collected (UF-065438) (A77BUR02FLUS), but not collected by either Burgess or Gilbert.
GOPHPOLY*1136	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST	ST	2004-06-08	2004-06-08: Area has mostly been converted to pine plantation with artificial raised beds. Area also has alot of piles of dirt from earthmoving projects for a nearby railroad. Historically, the more xeric bluffs and adjacent flatwoods (xeric/mesic to m	2004-06-08: One adult <i>Gopherus polyphemus</i> found crossing road, in good health (PNDJEN04FLUS)



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FNAI ELEMENT OCCURRENCE REPORT on or near *John M. Bethea State Forest*



Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global State Rank	Federal State Rank	Status Listing	Observation Date	Description	EO Comments
HARTFLOR*31	<i>Hartwrightia floridana</i>	Hartwrightia	G2	S2	N	LT	1929-10-13	Low pine land. Flowering. Collected by Hugh O'Neill (#6057) 13 Oct., 1929. FLAS #24326.
LITHCAPIT*71	<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Carolina Gopher Frog	G3	S3	N	SSC	2004-06-16	2004-06-16: about 8 individuals heard after rain (F04FNA09FLUS). Swamp along railroad track. Landscape consists mostly of large basin swamps with the uplands mostly converted to pine plantation. The uplands were mostly historically mesic flatwoods (F04FNA
OXYEJANE*63	<i>Oxyethira janella</i>	Little-entrance Oxyethiran Microcaddisfly	G5	S4S5	N	N	2007-06-01	2007-06-01: Three specimens were collected using a 15 watt black light over an alcohol-filled white pan (U09RAS01FLUS, U08RAS01FLUS).
PICOBORE*169	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	LE	FE	1983-PRE	1983-pre: one colony, ca 3 miles from next nearest known colony (U83UFS01FLUS).
URSUFLO*95	<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T2	S2	N	ST*	2012	2012: This occurrence with 200-313 (U05SIM01FLUS) is part of a larger population of 700-800 bears that includes Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia. This EO represents the Primary and Secondary Bear Ranges for the Osceola population. Pr
ZALEPERC*4	<i>Zale perculata</i>	Okefenokee Zale Moth	G2	S1	N	N	2001-02-24	2001-02-24: Specimens were collected at a mercury vapor lamp sheet, a black light sheet and black light traps. This species was very common (A06KON01FLUS, PNDKON01FLUS).



Florida Natural Areas Inventory Biodiversity Matrix Report



Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Documented					
<i>Cleistes divaricata</i>	Large Rosebud Orchid	G4	S1	N	LT
<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Spotted Turtle	G5	S3?	N	N
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
<i>Lithobates capito</i>	Carolina Gopher Frog		S3	N	SSC
<i>Zale perculata</i>	Okefenokee Zale Moth	G2	S1	N	N
Documented-Historic					
<i>Acantharchus pomotis</i>	Mud Sunfish	G4G5	S3	N	N
Likely					
Mesic flatwoods		G4	S4	N	N
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork		S2	LE	FE
<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	LE	FE
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida Black Bear	G5T2	S2	N	ST*
Potential					
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	G5	S4	N	N
<i>Asclepias viridula</i>	Southern Milkweed	G2	S2	N	LT
<i>Asplenium heteroresiliens</i>	Wagner's Spleenwort	GNA	S1	N	N
<i>Asplenium plenum</i>	Ruffled Spleenwort	G1Q	S1	N	N
<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	SSC
<i>Balduina atropurpurea</i>	Purple Honeycomb-head	G2	S1	N	LE
<i>Brickellia cordifolia</i>	Flyr's Brickell-bush	G2G3	S2	N	LE
<i>Calopogon multiflorus</i>	Many-flowered Grass-pink		S2S3	N	LE
<i>Calydorea coelestina</i>	Bartram's Ixia		S2S3	N	LE
<i>Carex chapmanii</i>	Chapman's Sedge	G3	S3	N	LT
<i>Coreopsis integrifolia</i>	Ciliate-leaf Tickseed	G1G2	S1	N	LE
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	G3G4	S2	N	N
<i>Ctenium floridanum</i>	Florida Toothache Grass	G2	S2	N	LE
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	LT	FT
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron	G5	S4	N	SSC
<i>Enneacanthus chaetodon</i>	Blackbanded Sunfish	G3G4	S3	N	N
<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3	S2S3	N	ST
<i>Gymnopogon chapmanianus</i>	Chapman's Skeletongrass	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Hartwrightia floridana</i>	Hartwrightia	G2	S2	N	LT
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	Pondspice	G3?	S2	N	LE
<i>Matelea floridana</i>	Florida Spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	LE
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Bat	G3G4	S3	N	N
<i>Notophthalmus perstriatus</i>	Striped Newt	G2G3	S2S3	C	N
<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	Florida Pine Snake	G4T3	S3	N	SSC
<i>Pteroglossaspis ecrinata</i>	Giant Orchid	G2G3	S2	N	LT
<i>Salix floridana</i>	Florida Willow	G2	S2	N	LE
<i>Sideroxylon alachuense</i>	Silver Buckthorn	G1	S1	N	LE

Definitions: Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.
Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years.
Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity.
Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.

Elements and Element Occurrences

An **element** is any exemplary or rare component of the natural environment, such as a species, natural community, bird rookery, spring, sinkhole, cave, or other ecological feature.

An **element occurrence (EO)** is an area of land and/or water in which a species or natural community is, or was, present. An EO should have practical conservation value for the Element as evidenced by potential continued (or historical) presence and/or regular recurrence at a given location.

Element Ranking and Legal Status

Using a ranking system developed by NatureServe and the Natural Heritage Program Network, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory assigns two ranks for each element. The global rank is based on an element's worldwide status; the state rank is based on the status of the element in Florida. Element ranks are based on many factors, the most important ones being estimated number of Element Occurrences (EOs), estimated abundance (number of individuals for species; area for natural communities), geographic range, estimated number of adequately protected EOs, relative threat of destruction, and ecological fragility.

FNAI GLOBAL ELEMENT RANK

- G1** = Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- G2** = Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- G3** = Either very rare and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.
- G4** = Apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range).
- G5** = Demonstrably secure globally.
- GH** = Of historical occurrence throughout its range, may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker).
- GX** = Believed to be extinct throughout range.
- GXC** = Extirpated from the wild but still known from captivity or cultivation.
- G#?** = Tentative rank (e.g., G2?).
- G#G#** = Range of rank; insufficient data to assign specific global rank (e.g., G2G3).
- G#T#** = Rank of a taxonomic subgroup such as a subspecies or variety; the G portion of the rank refers to the entire species and the T portion refers to the specific subgroup; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G3T1).
- G#Q** = Rank of questionable species - ranked as species but questionable whether it is species or subspecies; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G2Q).
- G#T#Q** = Same as above, but validity as subspecies or variety is questioned.
- GU** = Unrankable; due to a lack of information no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., GUT2).
- GNA** = Ranking is not applicable because the element is not a suitable target for conservation (e.g. a hybrid species).
- GNR** = Element not yet ranked (temporary).
- GNRTNR** = Neither the element nor the taxonomic subgroup has yet been ranked.

FNAI STATE ELEMENT RANK

- S1** = Critically imperiled in Florida because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- S2** = Imperiled in Florida because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- S3** = Either very rare and local in Florida (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.
- S4** = Apparently secure in Florida (may be rare in parts of range).
- S5** = Demonstrably secure in Florida.
- SH** = Of historical occurrence in Florida, possibly extirpated, but may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker).
- SX** = Believed to be extirpated throughout Florida.
- SU** = Unrankable; due to a lack of information no rank or range can be assigned.
- SNA** = State ranking is not applicable because the element is not a suitable target for conservation (e.g. a hybrid species).
- SNR** = Element not yet ranked (temporary).

FEDERAL LEGAL STATUS

Legal status information provided by FNAI for information only. For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant federal agency.

Definitions derived from U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, Sec. 3. Note that the federal status given by FNAI refers only to Florida populations and that federal status may differ elsewhere.

C = Candidate species for which federal listing agencies have sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as Endangered or Threatened.

LE = Endangered: species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

LE, LT = Species currently listed endangered in a portion of its range but only listed as threatened in other areas

LE, PDL = Species currently listed endangered but has been proposed for delisting.

LE, PT = Species currently listed endangered but has been proposed for listing as threatened.

LE, XN = Species currently listed endangered but tracked population is a non-essential experimental population.

LT = Threatened: species likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

SAT = Treated as threatened due to similarity of appearance to a species which is federally listed such that enforcement personnel have difficulty in attempting to differentiate between the listed and unlisted species.

SC = Not currently listed, but considered a "species of concern" to USFWS.

STATE LEGAL STATUS

Provided by FNAI for information only. For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant state agency.

Animals: Definitions derived from "Florida's Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern, Official Lists" published by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 1 August 1997, and subsequent updates.

FE = Listed as Endangered Species at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FT = Listed as Threatened Species at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

F(XN) = Federal listed as an experimental population in Florida

FT(S/A) = Federal Threatened due to similarity of appearance

ST = State population listed as Threatened by the FFWCC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is acutely vulnerable to environmental alteration, declining in number at a rapid rate, or whose range or habitat is decreasing in area at a rapid rate and as a consequence is destined or very likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future. (ST* for *Ursus americanus floridanus* (Florida black bear) indicates that this status does not apply in Baker and Columbia counties and in the Apalachicola National Forest. ST* for *Neovison vison* pop.1 (Southern mink, South Florida population) indicates that this status applies to the Everglades population only.)

SSC = Listed as Species of Special Concern by the FFWCC. Defined as a population which warrants special protection, recognition, or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming a threatened species. (SSC* indicates that a species has SSC status only in selected portions of its range in Florida. SSC* for *Pandion haliaetus* (Osprey) indicates that this status applies in Monroe county only.)

N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

Plants: Definitions derived from Sections 581.011 and 581.185(2), Florida Statutes, and the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act, 5B-40.001. FNAI does not track all state-regulated plant species; for a complete list of state-regulated plant species, call Florida Division of Plant Industry, 352-372-3505 or see: <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/>.

LE = Endangered: species of plants native to Florida that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue; includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

LT = Threatened: species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in number as to cause them to be Endangered.

N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

Element Occurrence Ranking

FNAI ranks of quality of the element occurrence in terms of its viability (EORANK). Viability is estimated using a combination of factors that contribute to continued survival of the element at the location. Among these are the size of the EO, general condition of the EO at the site, and the conditions of the landscape surrounding the EO (e.g. an immediate threat to an EO by local development pressure could lower an EO rank).

A = Excellent estimated viability
A? = Possibly excellent estimated viability
AB = Excellent or good estimated viability
AC = Excellent, good, or fair estimated viability
B = Good estimated viability
B? = Possibly good estimated viability
BC = Good or fair estimated viability
BD = Good, fair, or poor estimated viability
C = Fair estimated viability
C? = Possibly fair estimated viability
CD = Fair or poor estimated viability
D = Poor estimated viability
D? = Possibly poor estimated viability
E = Verified extant (viability not assessed)
F = Failed to find
H = Historical
NR = Not ranked, a placeholder when an EO is not (yet) ranked.
U = Unrankable
X = Extirpated

*For additional detail on the above ranks see: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/eorankguide.htm>

FNAI also uses the following EO ranks:

H? = Possibly historical
F? = Possibly failed to find
X? = Possibly extirpated

The following offers further explanation of the H and X ranks as they are used by FNAI:

The rank of H is used when there is a lack of recent field information verifying the continued existence of an EO, such as (a) when an EO is based only on historical collections data; or (b) when an EO was ranked A, B, C, D, or E at one time and is later, without field survey work, considered to be possibly extirpated due to general habitat loss or degradation of the environment in the area. This definition of the H rank is dependent on an interpretation of what constitutes "recent" field information. Generally, if there is no known survey of an EO within the last 20 to 40 years, it should be assigned an H rank. While these time frames represent suggested maximum limits, the actual time period for historical EOs may vary according to the biology of the element and the specific landscape context of each occurrence (including anthropogenic alteration of the environment). Thus, an H rank may be assigned to an EO before the maximum time frames have lapsed. Occurrences that have not been surveyed for periods exceeding these time frames should not be ranked A, B, C, or D. The higher maximum limit for plants and communities (i.e., ranging from 20 to 40 years) is based upon the assumption that occurrences of these elements generally have the potential to persist at a given location for longer periods of time. This greater potential is a reflection of plant biology and community dynamics. However, landscape factors must also be considered. Thus, areas with more anthropogenic impacts on the environment (e.g., development) will be at the lower end of the range, and less-impacted areas will be at the higher end.

The rank of X is assigned to EOs for which there is documented destruction of habitat or environment, or persuasive evidence of eradication based on adequate survey (i.e., thorough or repeated survey efforts by one or more experienced observers at times and under conditions appropriate for the Element at that location).

Exhibit N

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Response



**Florida Fish
and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission**

Commissioners

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Jacksonville

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Winter Park

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**FWRI
Information Sciences
and Management**
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*Managing fish and wildlife
resources for their long-term
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of people.*

**Fish and Wildlife
Research Institute**
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1600
Voice: (850) 410-0656

Hearing/speech-impaired:
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(800) 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com/Research

June 6, 2014

Ms. Jennifer Reed
Land Planning Coordinator
Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services
Florida Forest Service
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Dear Ms. Reed:

This letter is in response to your request for listed species occurrence records and critical habitats for your project (John M. Bethea State Forest) located in Baker County, Florida. Records from The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's database indicate that listed species occurrence data are located within project area. Enclosed are 8.5 x 11 maps showing listed species locations, SHCA for Cooper's hawk, black bear and swallow-tailed kite, Prioritized SHCA's, species richness, priority wetlands for listed species, and land cover for the project site and surrounding area.

This letter and attachments should not be considered as a review or an assessment of the impact upon threatened or endangered species of the project site. It provides FWC's most current data regarding the location of listed species and their associated habitats.

Our SHCA recommendations are intended to be used as a guide. Land development and ownership in Florida is ever-changing and priority areas identified as SHCA might already have been significantly altered due to development or acquired into public ownership. Onsite surveys, literature reviews, and coordination with FWC biologists remain essential steps in documenting the presence or absence of rare and imperiled species and habitats within the project area.

Our fish and wildlife location data represents only those occurrences recorded by FWC staff and other affiliated researchers. It is important to understand that our database does not necessarily contain records of all listed species that may occur in a given area. Also, data on certain species, such as gopher tortoises, are not entered into our database on a site-specific basis.

Therefore, one should not assume that an absence of occurrences in our database indicates that species of significance do not occur in the area.

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) maintains a separate database of listed plant and wildlife species, please contact FNAI directly for specific information on the location of element occurrences within the project area.

Ms. Jennifer Reed
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Because FNAI is funded to provide information to public agencies only, you may be required to pay a fee for this information. County-wide listed species information can be located at their website (<http://www.fnai.org>).

Please credit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in any publication or presentation of these data. If you have any questions or further requests, please contact me at (850) 488-0588 or gisrequests@myfwc.com.

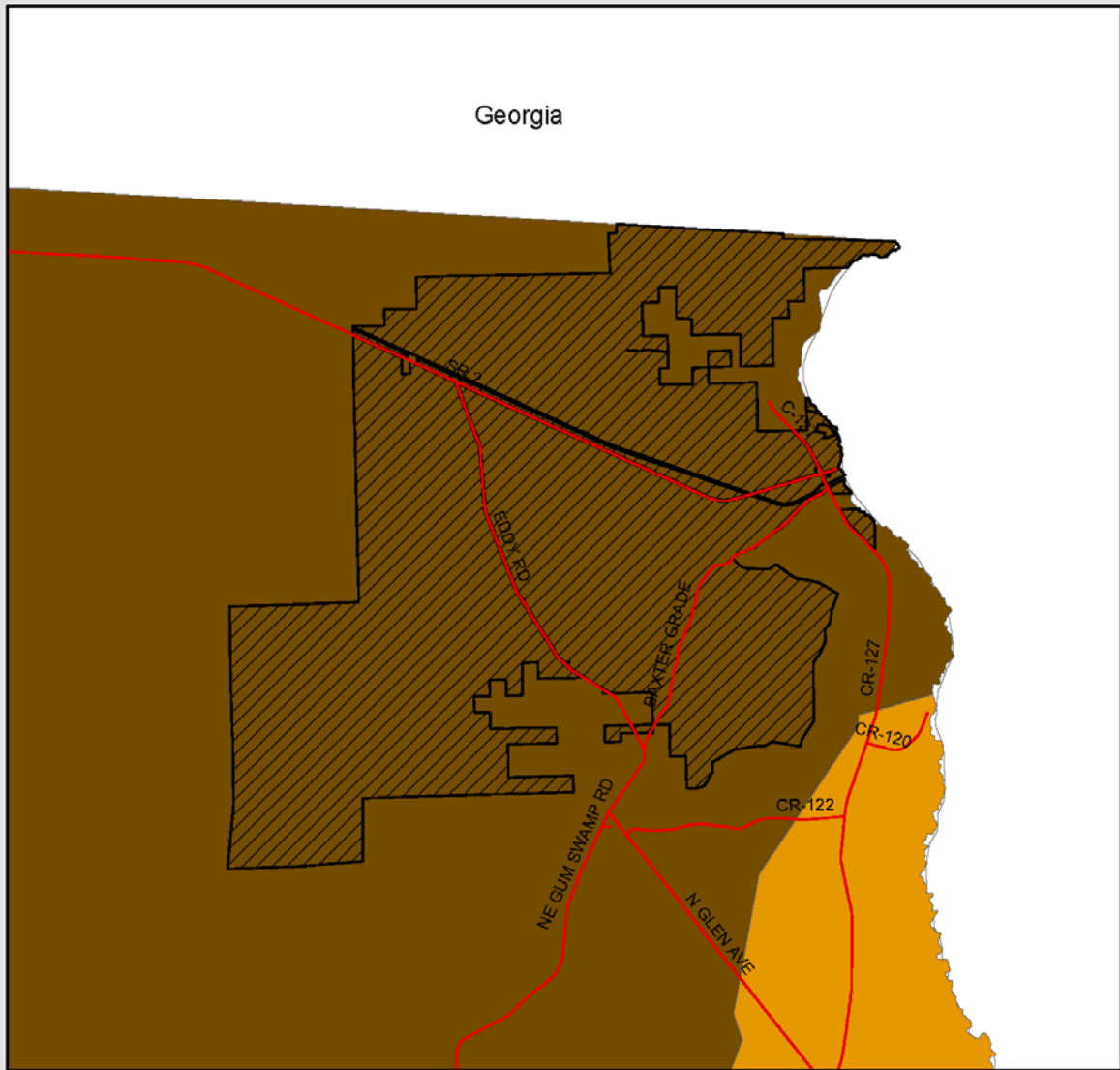
Sincerely,



Jan Stearns
Staff Assistant

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Enclosures

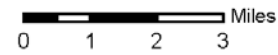
Black Bear Range
John M. Bethea State Forest



Bear Range 2008

RangeType

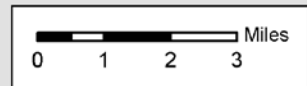
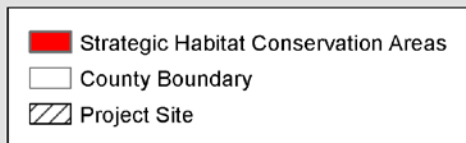
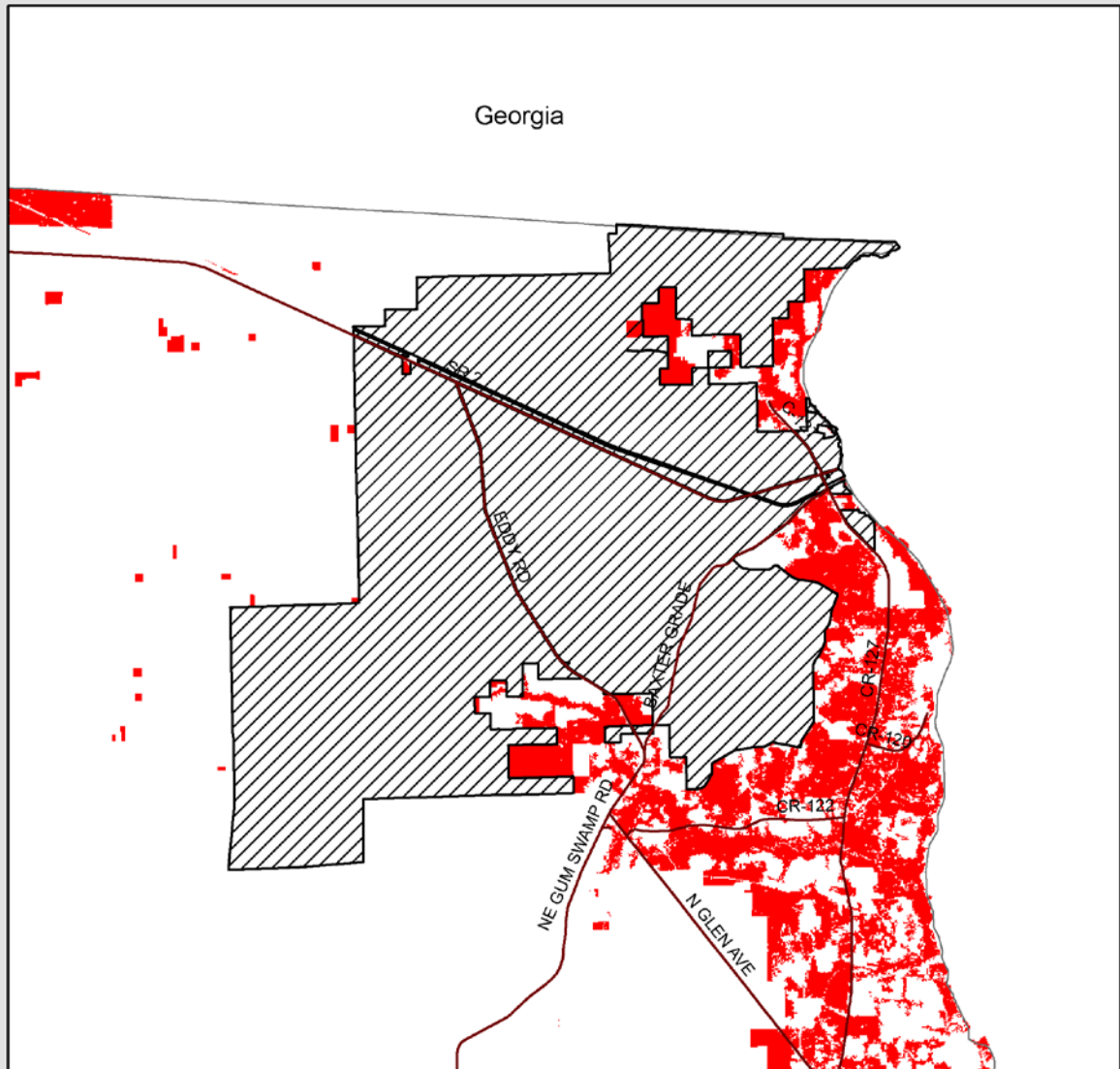
- Primary
- Secondary
- County Boundary
- Project Site



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Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas

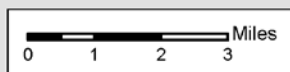
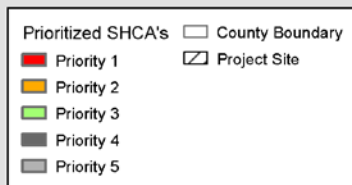
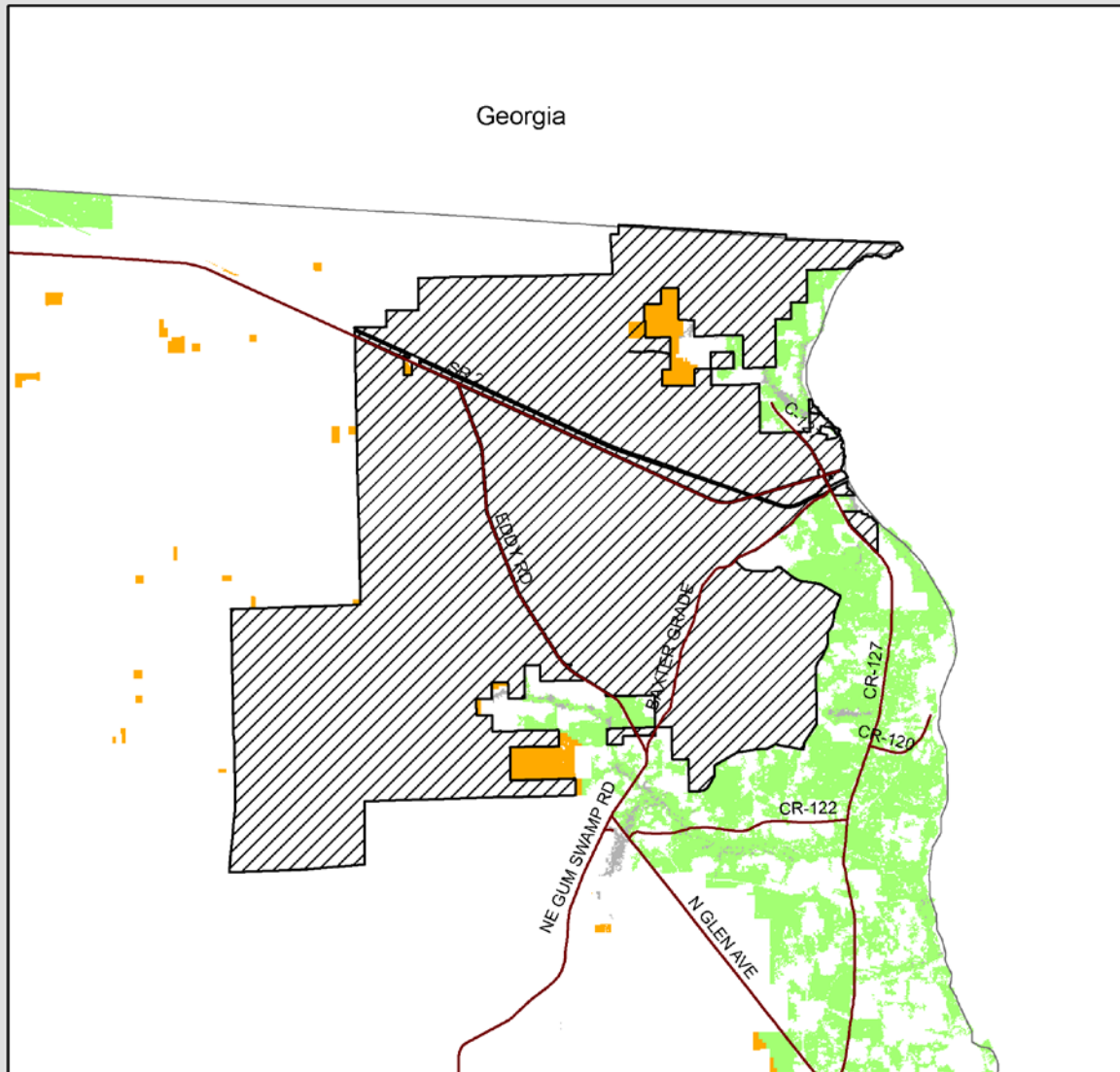
John M. Bethea State Forest



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Prioritized SHCA's

John M. Bethea State Forest



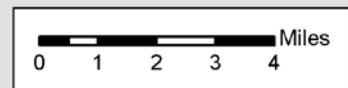
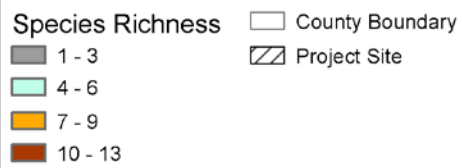
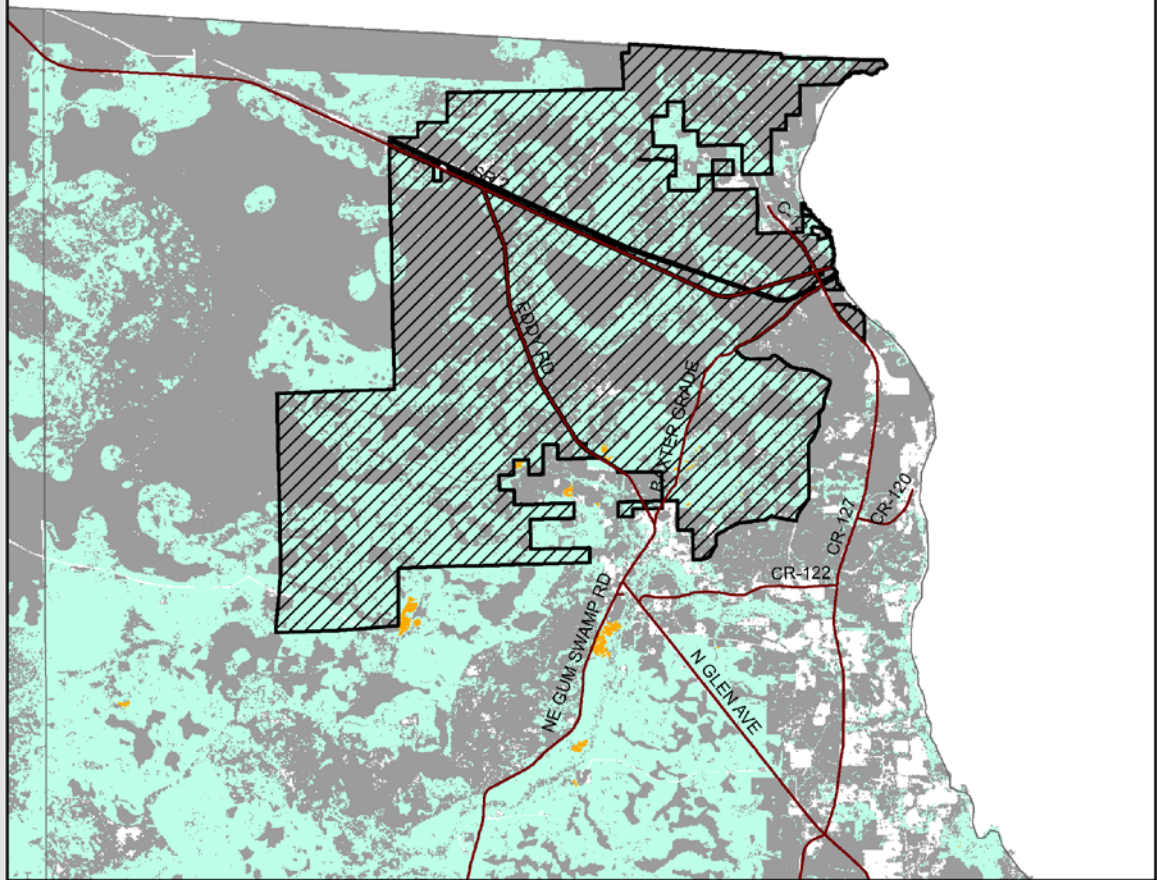
The prioritized SHCA map identifies 5 classes of SHCA based upon Heritage ranking criteria developed by The Nature Conservancy, the Natural Heritage Program Network, and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. There are 2 possible ranks used to prioritize a species' SHCA: 1) the global rank based on a species worldwide status, and 2) the state rank based upon the species status in Florida. The state and global ranks are based upon many factors such as known occurrence locations, estimated abundance, range, amount of habitat currently protected, perceived levels of threats towards the species, and ecological fragility.

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Species Richness

John M. Bethea State Forest

Georgia

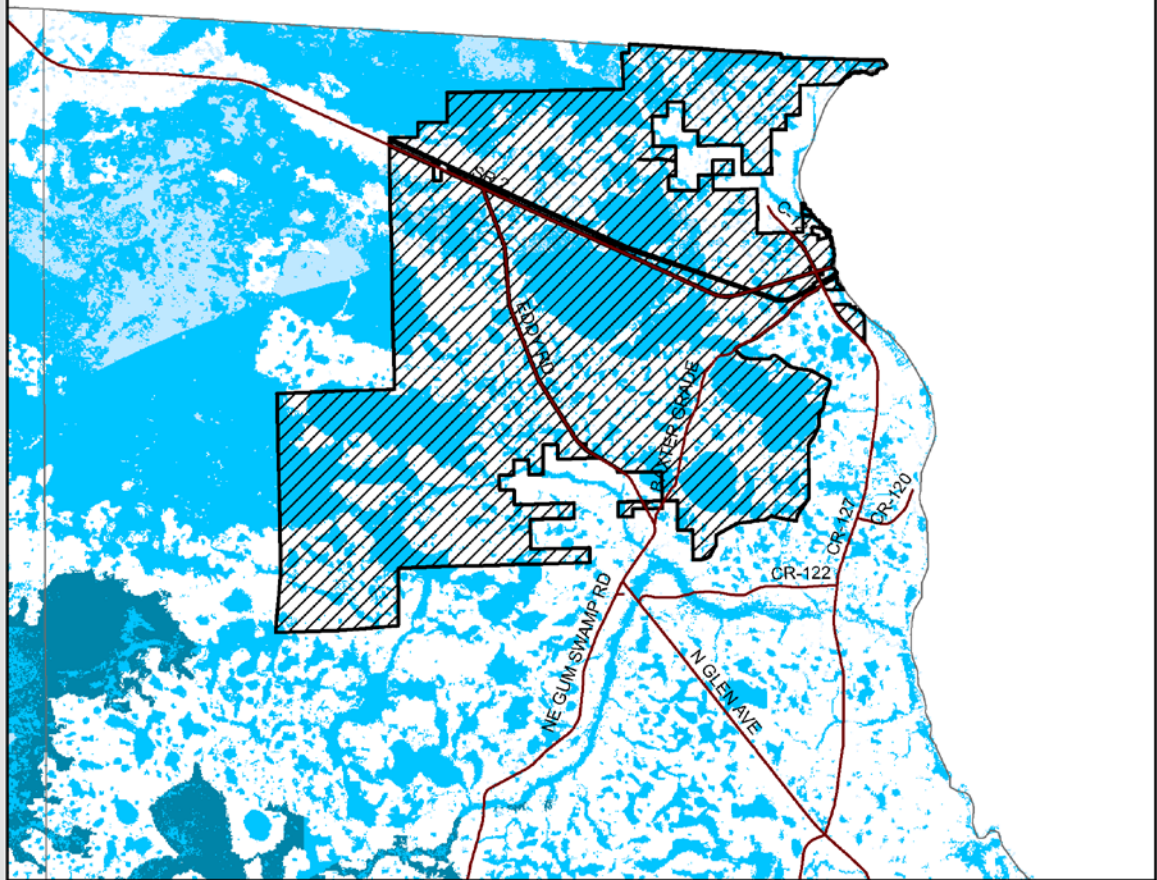


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Priority Wetlands

John M. Bethea State Forest

Georgia

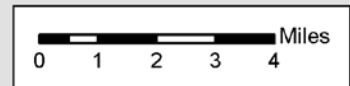


Priority Wetlands

- 1-3 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 4-6 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 7-9 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 10-11 Species, Wetlands habitat

County Boundary

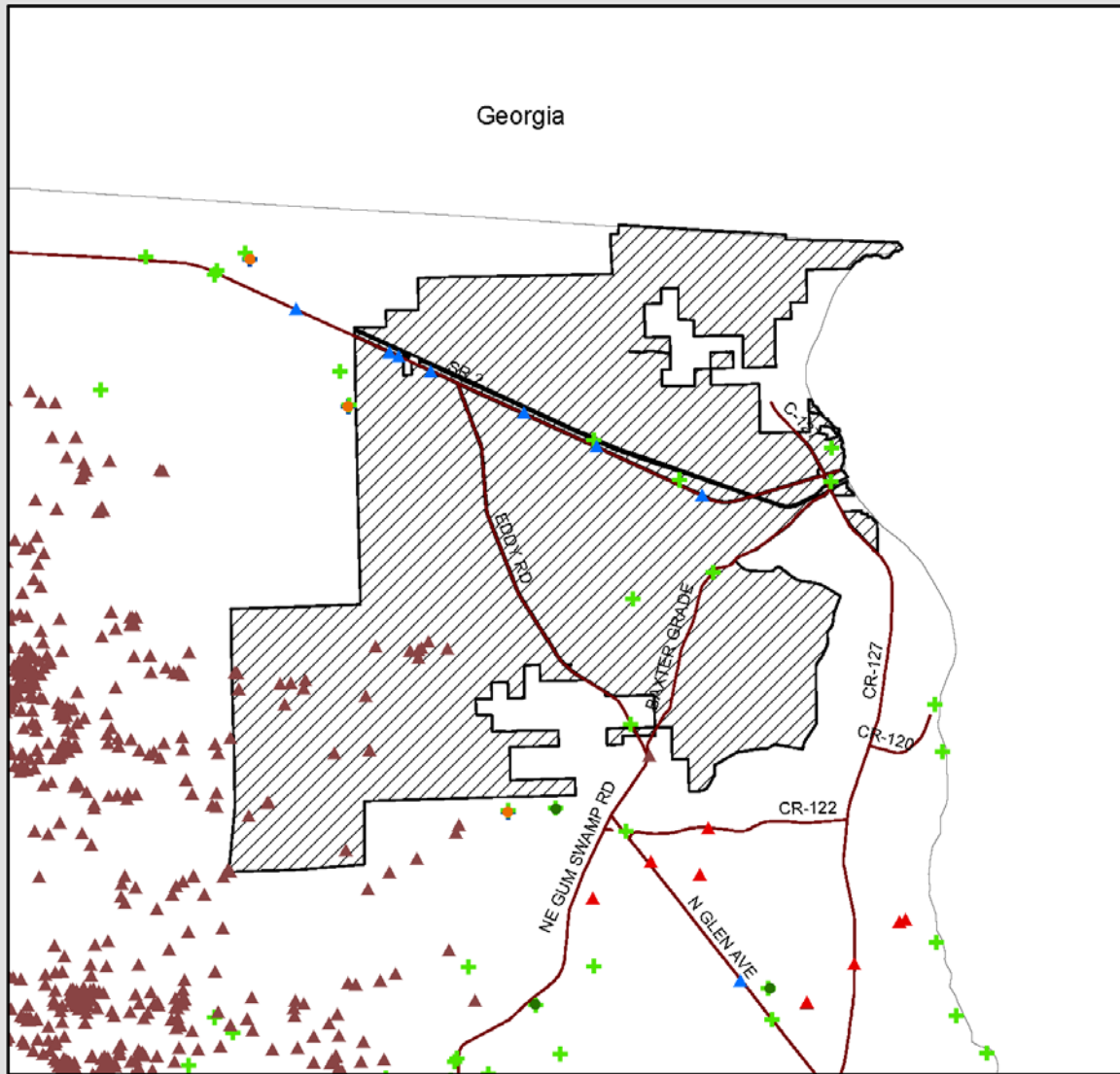
Project Site



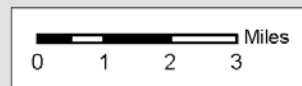
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Species Occurrences

John M. Bethea State Forest



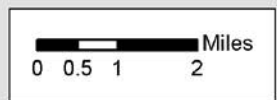
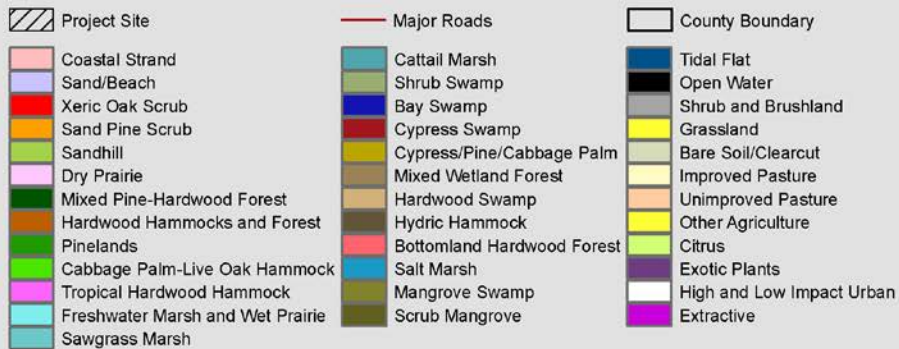
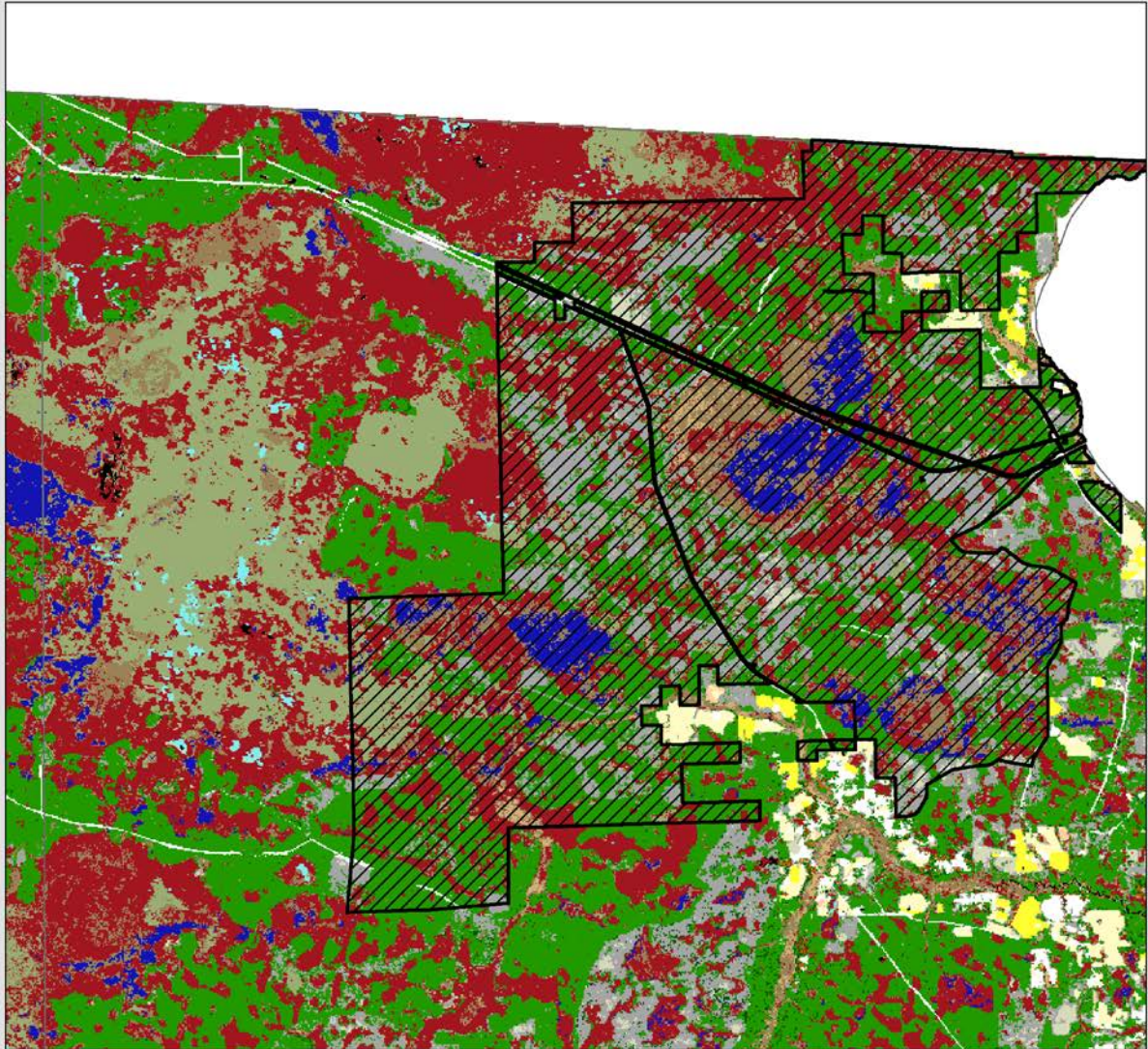
- Red Cockaded Woodpecker
- Wading Bird Rookeries 1999
- ▲ Bear Calls
- ▲ Bear Roadkill
- ▲ Black Bear Telemetry
- + Florida Natural Inventory Areas
- + Wildlife Observations
- County Boundary
- ▨ Project Site



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Florida Land Cover - 2003

John M. Bethea State Forest



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