

Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods

Charlotte and Lee Counties

Partnerships

Purpose for State Acquisition

Northwest of Fort Myers lies the largest and highest-quality slash-pine flatwoods left in southwest Florida. The pines are home to red-cockaded woodpeckers, black bears, and bald eagles, and an occasional Florida panther ranges the area. The largest population of the rare beautiful pawpaw grows here. Several drainage ditches flow through these flatwoods into the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve. The Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project will protect these flatwoods and connect the Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve with the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, helping to protect both of these managed areas and the waters of the Aquatic Preserve.

Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

General Description

This project encompasses the largest remaining tract of intact pine flatwoods in southwestern Florida. Old-growth South Florida slash pine forests on site are home to at least 10 rare animals including red-cockaded woodpeckers, bald eagles, and Florida panthers are known to use the site. The tract also provides important habitat for several rare plants, most notably a globally critically imperiled plant, the beautiful pawpaw, *Deeringothamnus pulchellus*. The project provides

additional protection for the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Gasparilla Sound-Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve and will also connect the Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve and the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area. This upland site is particularly suited for development, especially considering the rapid growth of Charlotte and Lee counties. No archaeological sites are known from the project.

Public Use

The project is designated as a wildlife management area, with such uses as hiking, environmental education and hunting.

Acquisition Planning

Phase I tracts include Ansin (essential—acquired), Zemel (essential—Phase I acquired), Bower (essential), Section 20 SE of Burnt Store Marina Road and Section 24.

On 10/15/1998, LAMAC removed 165 acres and added them to the Charlotte Harbor project.

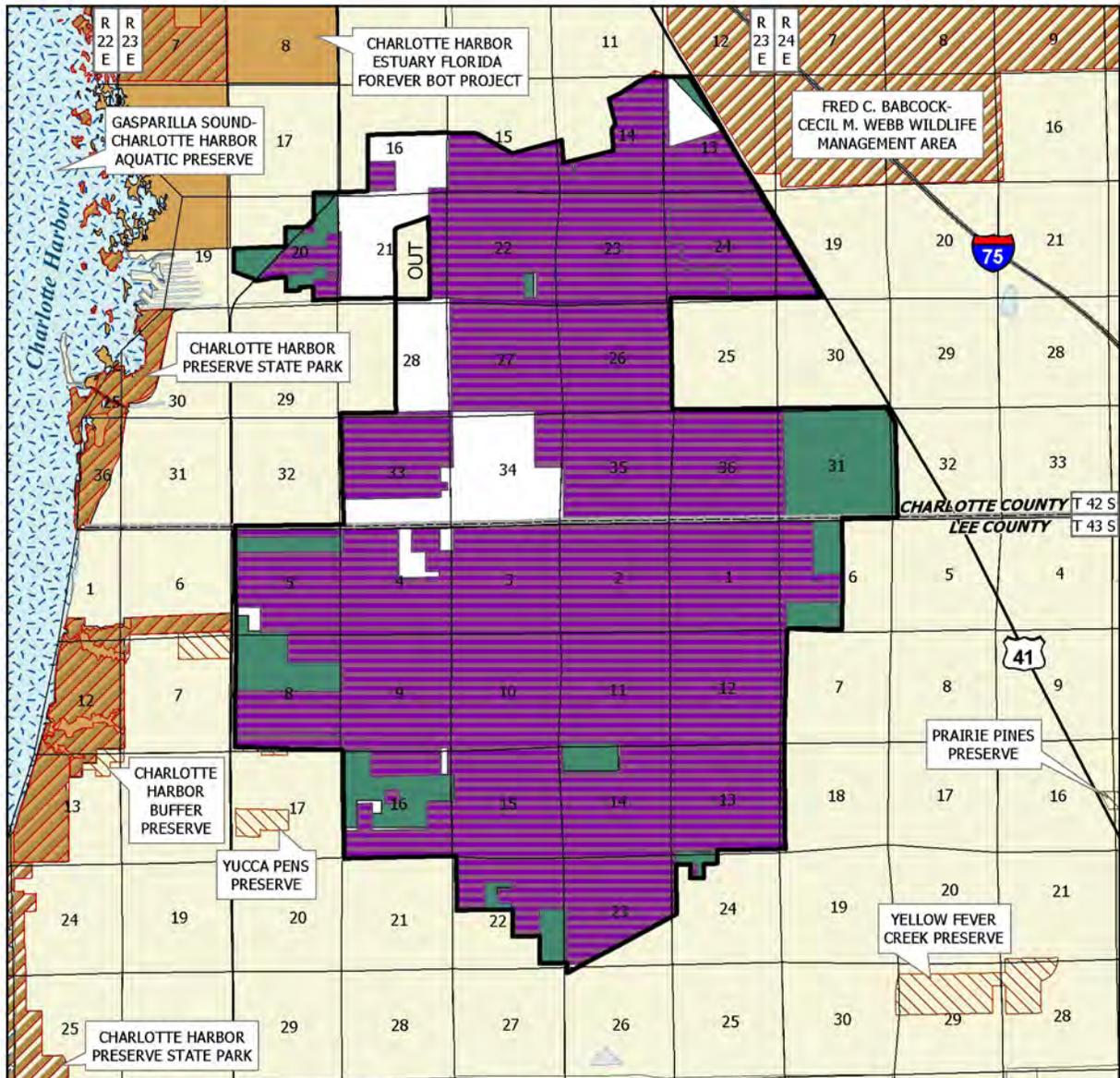
On 2/11/1999, the Council added 333 acres, and on 10/21/1999, added 1,793 acres as essential parcels. In June 2007 the 9-acre Honenberg Parcel was purchased by FWCC and added to the Yucca Pens Unit of the project.

Large essential parcels have been acquired. The Division of State Lands (DSL) is not active in this project.

Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
<i>Beautiful Pawpaw</i>	G1/S1
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
<i>Florida Beargrass</i>	G3/S3
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3/S3
Roscate Spoonbill	G5/S2
14 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1992
Project Area (GIS Acres)	19,559
Acres Acquired (GIS)	15,653
at a Cost of	\$36,828,279
Acres Remaining (GIS)	3,906
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$8,536,050
<i>Note: 2,352 acres were removed from the project at the land-owner's request plus 683 isolated/disturbed acres were removed in 2009.</i>	

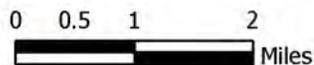
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods



CHARLOTTE HARBOR FLATWOODS

CHARLOTTE AND LEE COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



JUNE 2011

Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods

On 2/26/09 FWC purchased 37.63 acres (Yucca Pens) for \$298,000 from Allcoat, Inc. to add to Babcock Webb WMA.

On 6/12/2009 ARC approved removal of 3,035 acres (2,352 of ZREV-owner's request-plus 683 isolated/disturbed acres) from the boundary with a tax assessed value of \$43,524,121.

Coordination

The FWC is acquiring small inholdings in the project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs can adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation The Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project has the size (18,000 acres), location (adjacent to the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area), outstanding wildlife habitat (the largest stand of undisturbed flatwoods in southwest Florida) and wildlife resources (red-cockaded woodpeckers,

Florida panthers, and Florida black bears, among others) to qualify as a wildlife management area.

Conditions affecting intensity of management Development surrounding and within the project, and the intense urbanization of southwest Florida, suggest a broad array of management problems. Trash dumping, other illegal trespass and the presence of numerous inholdings will certainly increase the need for intensive and careful management. Law enforcement and fire-control issues are expected to be at the forefront.

Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure The first year of management activity will entail controlling public access with gates and/or fencing, and controlling the littering and dumping problems. Additional emphasis will be placed on planning and on establishing an adequate and appropriate fire regime. Subsequent years should result in this project becoming an integral part of the management scheme for Babcock-Webb WMA.

Revenue-generating potential Though this property contains significant timber resources, the timber revenue potential is low. There is little or no market for South Florida Slash Pine timber in Southwest Florida (in fact, very little timber market at all). Nevertheless, the potential for generating recreational revenue is significant, if new recreational user fees were to be implemented on this WMA.

Management costs and revenue source Revenues would likely come from the CARL Trust Fund and Pittman-Robertson return of excise tax.

Updated 2/27/2012

Management Cost Summary/FWC

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$54,200	\$54,200	\$55,000
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Expense	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$12,500
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$64,202	\$64,202	\$69,500