



*Forest Legacy Project Selection/Ranking Criteria*

<b>Application Criteria</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1. Willing Landowner	Landowner must provide written expression of interest.
2. Sufficient Forest Cover or Potential	Consistent with FLP guidelines. Sustainable Forestry <sup>‡</sup> based on FNAI Florida Forever Sustainable Forestry layer.
3. Forest Legacy Area	Land must fall within an approved FLA. Must fall within one or more of the data layers described under <i>Selection Criteria</i> , 1. through 7. ( <i>quantitative only</i> )
4. Partnerships & Local Match	Partnerships with local, state, or other conservation groups providing at least 25% of project costs from non-federal cash or in-kind. Partnerships with other federal management agencies are encouraged but can not be included in 25% local match requirement.
<b>Selection Criteria</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1. Fish & Wildlife Habitat	FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities for Rare Species and FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas ( <i>qualitative analysis</i> )
2. Threatened & Endangered Species	FNAI Element Occurrence Database ( <i>qualitative analysis</i> )
3. Natural Communities	FNAI Florida Forever Under-represented Natural Communities layer ( <i>qualitative analysis</i> )
4. Watershed Values	FNAI Florida Forever High Quality Watersheds layer ( <i>qualitative analysis</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Significant Surface Waters</li> <li>o Floodplain: "Natural floodplain"</li> </ul>
5. Groundwater Recharge	FNAI Florida Forever Aquifer Recharge layer ( <i>qualitative analysis</i> )
6. Wetlands	FNAI Florida Forever Functional Wetlands layer ( <i>qualitative analysis</i> )
7. Connectivity	Landscapes and Linkages ( <i>qualitative analysis</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o University of Florida/Office of Greenways &amp; Trails Ecological Greenways</li> <li>o Contiguous or adjacent to other public and protected lands or lands slated for purchase as part of an established conservation project.</li> </ul>
8. Threat of Conversion	Conversion to non-forest use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Development Pressure from GeoPlan Model</li> <li>o Parcelization Threat</li> <li>o Fragmentation Threat</li> </ul>
9. Readiness	Clear description of project's current status; timeline for completion.

# **FLORIDA FOREST LEGACY OBJECTIVES**

## **Panhandle FLA**

### **Established Objectives for FLA:**

- Support land conservation strategies of the Northwest Florida Greenway Project and connections to the Blackwater SF and Conecuh NF in Alabama which would include Yellow River Ravine Florida Forever project and the Division of Forestry's Inholdings and Additions program.
- Focus on riverine systems and aquifer recharge/natural spring protection
- Seek opportunities to buffer existing public lands and conserve inholdings.
- Support sustainable forestry practices important to the area's economic viability.
- Protect key wildlife corridors
- Outreach to private, non-industrial forest landowners to participate in FLP through the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (when funded).

### **Public Benefits:**

- Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species
- Water quality and fish habitat
- Established wildlife corridors
- Conserved natural springs
- Buffered public lands
- Stable forest-based economy

### **Potential Conservation Partners:**

Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Counties, TNC, local land trusts, Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, and Department of Defense.

## **North-Central FLA**

### **Established Objectives for FLA:**

- Focus on areas of the region where implementation of FLP could contribute to local or regional land use planning efforts, the reduction of urban sprawl, and protection of the forest resources.
- Protect surface waters and aquifer recharge
- Support sustainable forestry practices important to the area's economic viability
- Seek connectivity opportunities between already-conserved lands
- Seek opportunities to buffer existing public lands and conserve inholdings

### **Public Benefits**

- Safe, potable water supplies
- Fish and wildlife habitat, including Threatened and Endangered Species
- Stable forest industry
- Natural Community conservation
- Public lands buffers
- Curb parcelization and fragmentation of forest resources

### **Potential Conservation Partners:**

Department of Environmental Protection, Suwannee River, St. Johns River and Southwest Florida Water Management Districts, county conservation programs, land trusts, Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, and Army National Guard Bureau.











