

## FLORIDA'S LANDS and WATER - Brief Facts

Total of land and water <sup>1</sup>	Approximately 71,324 square miles 45.65 million acres
Territorial waters <sup>2</sup>	9 geographic miles (10.36 statute miles) into the Gulf of Mexico and 3 geographic miles (3.45 statute miles) into the Atlantic Ocean, approximately 6.96 million acres
Coastal Bays and Sounds <sup>3</sup>	Approximately 2.32 million acres
Inland waters <sup>4</sup>	Approximately 1.67 million acres
Land Area <sup>5</sup>	Approximately 54,224 square miles 34.70 million acres
Length of Coastline <sup>6</sup>	1,350 miles of general coastline 2,276 miles of tidal shoreline 8,426 miles of detailed shoreline
Length of sandy beaches <sup>7</sup>	825 miles
Number of lakes <sup>8</sup>	7,700
Length of Streams <sup>9</sup>	12,650 miles

### PUBLIC LANDS

Pursuant to s. 253.03, Florida Statutes, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida holds title to all state-owned lands except for lands used for roads/canals and lands owned by special districts and a few other exceptions.<sup>10</sup>

Lands owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund<sup>11</sup>

Conservation Lands	3,181,104 acres
Non-conservation Lands	<u>112,751 acres</u>
Total	3,293,855 acres

State Conservation Lands Acquired with Florida Forever Funds (from Florida Forever inception in 2001 through December 31, 2014)<sup>12</sup>

Land Acquired	709,504 acres with \$2.9 billion
Conservation Easements	180,905 acres with \$221.7 million

Sovereignty lands<sup>13</sup> - In addition to these state-owned lands, most submerged lands within the state's territorial boundaries, coastal waters and inland lakes and streams are navigable and open to the public. Although no comprehensive inventory exists, and many boundaries are yet undetermined, general estimates by the Division of State Lands indicate that there are well over 9 million acres of sovereignty lands.

Collectively, over 10 million acres of conservation lands are *managed* by federal, state and local Governments. State agencies and water management districts manage approximately 5.5 million acres of conservation lands.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Compiled by the Division of State Lands, Bureau of Survey and Mapping. Outer boundaries pursuant to the Submerged Land Act, U.S. Code, 43 U.S.C. 1301 - 1315 and U.S. vs. Florida, U.S. Supreme Court, 425 US 791, 48 L Ed 2d 388, 96 S Ct 1840, and based on GIS data provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and U.S. Department of Mineral Management Services. State boundaries between Florida, Georgia and Alabama determined from TIGER Files.

<sup>2</sup> Compiled by the Division of State lands, Bureau of Survey and Mapping. Outer boundaries pursuant to the Submerged Land Act, U.S. Code, 43 U.S.C. 1301 - 1315 and U.S. vs. Florida, U.S. Supreme Court, 425 US 791, 48 L Ed 2d 388, 96 S Ct 1840, and based on GIS data provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and U.S. Department of Mineral Management Services. Area of coastal bays and sounds, and the shallow waters of Florida Bay and the Lower Keys are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Compiled by the Division of State lands, Bureau of Survey and Mapping of inland area of coastal bays and sounds, and the shallow waters of Florida Bay and the Lower Keys based on the Florida National Hydrography Dataset.

<sup>4</sup> Compiled by the Division of State lands, Bureau of Survey and Mapping based on feature types lake/pond, stream/river of the Florida National Hydrography Dataset lying inland of the Inland area of coastal bays and sounds described above.

<sup>5</sup> Compiled by the Division of State lands, Bureau of Survey and Mapping based on remainder of lands of Tiger files less the area of 2, 3 and 4.

<sup>6</sup> From The Florida Handbook 2009-2010 compiled by Allen and Joan Morris. "General" coastline is the measurement of the general outline of the seacoast. "Tidal" shoreline includes measurement of bays, sounds and other waterbodies where these narrow to a width of three statute miles. "Tidal shoreline, detailed" takes bays, sounds and other bodies either to the head of tidewater or to a point where such waters narrow to 100 feet.

<sup>7</sup> From 2008 Strategic Beach Management Plan 2008; Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems.

<sup>8</sup> Florida Lakes Gazetteer; Florida Board of Conservation, 1969, represents all named lakes regardless of size and any unnamed lakes greater than 10 acres in size.

<sup>9</sup> Florida Streams Gazetteer; Florida Board of Conservation, 1966, represents all named streams from USGS quad sheets and principle South Florida canals.

<sup>10</sup> Section 253.03(1) Florida Statutes reads "The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the state is vested and charged with the acquisition, administration, management, control, supervision, conservation, protection, and disposition of all lands owned by, or which may hereafter inure to, the state or any of its agencies, departments, boards, or commissions, excluding lands held for transportation facilities and transportation corridors and canal rights-of-way, spoil areas and lands required for disposal of materials, or borrow pits; any land, title to which is vested or may become vested in any port authority, flood control district, water management district, or navigation district or agency created by any general or special act; and any lands, including the Camp Blanding Military Reservation, which have been conveyed to the state for military purposes only, and which are subject to reversion if conveyed by the original grantee or if the conveyance to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund under this act would work a reversion from any other cause, or where any conveyance of

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lands held by a state agency which are encumbered by or subject to liens, trust agreements, or any form of contract which encumbers state lands for the repayment of funded debt.”

<sup>11</sup> Florida State Owned Lands and Records Information System (FL-SOLARIS), as of 12/24/2014. Although total may include some submerged land contained within deed boundaries, these lands represent almost exclusively uplands and/or wetlands. Differences in conservation and non-conservation management may be mixed in some cases.

<sup>12</sup> Florida Department of Environmental Protection Land Office of Environmental Services.

<sup>13</sup> Article X SECTION 11 Florida Constitution reads “Sovereignty lands.--The title to lands under navigable waters, within the boundaries of the state, which have not been alienated, including beaches below mean high water lines, is held by the state, by virtue of its sovereignty, in trust for all the people. Sale of such lands may be authorized by law, but only when in the public interest. Private use of portions of such lands may be authorized by law, but only when not contrary to the public interest.”

<sup>14</sup> Florida National Areas Inventory (FNAI) “Summary of Florida Conservation Lands.” Additional data and information regarding conservation lands can be found at <http://www.fnai.org>.