

## FLORIDA'S LANDS and WATER - Brief Facts

Total of land and water <sup>1</sup>	Approximately 71,341 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 6.95 million acres
Coastal Bays and Sounds <sup>3</sup>	Approximately 2.32 million acres
Inland waters <sup>4</sup>	Approximately 2.15 million acres
Land Area <sup>5</sup>	Approximately 53,474 square miles 34.23 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	3,128,424 acres
Non-conservation Lands	<u>206,028 acres</u>
Total	3,334,452 acres

State Conservation Lands Acquired with *Florida Forever* Funds (from *Florida Forever* inception in 2001 through November 30, 2010)<sup>12</sup>

Land Acquired	668,243 acres with \$2.8 billion
Conservation Easements	148,822 acres with \$197 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.

In summary, the federal agencies manage a little over 4 million acres of conservation lands, the state and water management districts manage approximately 4.9 million acres of conservation lands, and local governments manage about 460,000 acres of conservation lands. **Collectively, 9,366,499 acres of public lands are *managed* for conservation purposes, including some military and school lands that serve conservation purposes, even though their primary purpose is not conservation. In addition, there are 573,551 acres of acquired Conservation Easements.**<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 lakes/ponds, canal/ditch, 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 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>Board of Trustees Property Inventory Database. Although may include some submerged land contained within deed boundaries, these lands represent almost exclusively uplands and/or wetlands. Conservation/non-conservation lands determined from agency types. Differences in how managed may be mixed in some cases.

<sup>12</sup>Florida Department of Environmental Protection [Land Conservation Statistical Abstract](#)

<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>DEP contracts with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) to collect information on *conservation lands* in the state. FNAI tracks these lands by management agency instead of by fee owner. Thus, some state-owned lands managed by a federal agency will be reported as federal conservation lands, and vice versa: some federal lands managed by the state will be reported as state conservation lands. Similarly, some state-owned land managed by local government will be reported as local conservation lands and vice versa. Note that water management district lands are included under state conservation lands, although the five water management districts hold title to the land that they own. The FNAI web site at <http://www.fnai.org> includes a statewide interactive map of the conservation areas by managing agency.