Get to know your

National Forests in Florida

Apalachicola • Ocala • Osceola

www.fs.usda.gov/florida

■ Discover Florida's Forests

The National Forests in Florida includes three forests—the Apalachicola, Ocala and Osceola. Combined, these national forest lands span almost 1.2 million acres in north and central Florida. The National Forests in Florida also manages the 1,000-mile Florida National Scenic Trail, which is one of 11 national scenic trails in the United States.

■ When were the forests established?

In 1908 President Theodore Roosevelt officially proclaimed the Ocala National Forest. At 386,996 acres, it's the oldest national forest in Florida.

The Osceola National Forest was created by a Presidential Proclamation in July 1931 due to the land being heavily cutover and burned. At 236,775 acres, this "flatwoods" forest is comprised of low pine ridges separated by cypress and bay swamps. Currently, the Osceola is expanding its connection to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge through land acquisition in the Pinhook purchase unit.

The Apalachicola National Forest, established in 1936, is the largest national forest in Florida at 573,521 acres. Located in the Florida Panhandle, the Apalachicola is one of the most biodiverse forests in the country.

■ Who visits the National Forests in Florida?

With large urban population centers of Jacksonville, Orlando, Daytona, Tampa and Tallahassee within close proximity, the forests' average annual visitation is 1.1 million people.

■ What wildlife makes its home in Florida's forests?

The Apalachicola is home to the largest recovered population of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers in the world. The Ocala is the only National Forest the threatened Florida scrub jay calls home and supports over one-quarter of all scrub jays in the world. With diverse bird populations and growing Florida black bear populations, the forests are ideal locations for bird watchers and nature lovers alike.

■ What type of recreation is available?

From primitive wilderness to off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, the National Forests in Florida has a variety of recreation opportunities. The forests offer a range of accommodations from full-hookup campgrounds to rustic hunting and boating camps. About 190 miles of the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) traverse the forests, giving visitors a chance to enjoy Florida's natural environment while walking, hiking or wildlife viewing. Hunting and fishing on all three National Forests in Florida is also very popular.

■ What are some highlights from our Forests?

The Ocala boasts pristine springs, perfect for snorkeling and swimming, and is home to the remaining vestiges of the imperiled sand pine/scrub ecosystem. The Apalachicola's fragile savannahs are open wet, grassy areas that provide refuge for an unusual combination of grasses, delicate orchids and carnivorous pitcher plants. The forested woodlands and swamps of the Osceola are remnants of a less-developed Florida.

Follow us on twitter @NFinFlorida Like us on Facebook @NationalForestsinFlorida nfinflorida

Visit us at www.fs.usda.gov/apalachicola • www.fs.usda.gov/ocala • www.fs.usda.gov/osceola • http://www.fs.usda.gov/fnst

National Forests in Florida: Forest Facts at a Glance

General Forest Facts

1.2 million acres of managed land
$22.5 million average annual budget
182 employees

Recreation

1.1 million visitors annually
118 developed recreation sites

Acreage

	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola	Total
General Acres	573,521	386,996	236,775	1,197,292
Wilderness Acres	38,317	28,736	18,608	85,661

(Wilderness includes all Congressionally Designated areas)

Water

600 billion gallons of water produced
36,000 acres of lakes, rivers and ponds
510,000 acres of wetlands
854 miles of perennial rivers and streams

Cultural Resources

55 historic structures
3,717 archeological sites
1 National Historic Landmark
Olustee Battlefield
(National Register listed Civil War site)

Olustee Battlefield, ▼ Osceola National Forest

▲ Carr Cabin, Ocala National Forest

Above: *National Forests in Florida has received numerous accolades for its longleaf pine restoration efforts.*

Left: *Each forest has an active cultural and heritage resource program preserving and protecting these sites for generations to come.*

Wildlife

	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola	Total
RCW cluster (active)	770	112	149	1031
Florida Scrub Jay Groups	0	1,100-1,250	0	1,100-1,250

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

	Plants	Animal
Endangered Species	3	10
Threatened Species	7	8
Sensitive Species	136	36

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker is one of several threatened, endangered and sensitive species the National Forests in Florida protects.

National Forests in Florida: Forest Facts at a Glance

Prescribed Fire

	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola	Total
	67,129	32,439	25,310	124,878

(3 year average; the forests have burned up to 195,000 acres per year depending on weather)

Trails

Trails	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola
Hiking	18	24	6
Mountain Bike	20	22	0
Motorized OHV	52	175	0
Motorcycle	57	14	0
Equestrian	18	136	55
Mixed-Use Roads (Roads allowing OHV and motorcycle use)	132	186	349
Florida National Scenic Trail (Miles traversing forest lands only)	68	96	22
Total Miles	349	653	432

Timber

Timber	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola	Total
Timber offered for sale (FY 2015 offerings)	11,785CCF 1,208 acres	62,823CCF 5,503 acres	24,212CCF 4,403 acres	98,820CCF 11,114 acres
Timber Harvested (Existing sales)	5,949CCF 1,125 acres	46,705CCF 2,458 acres	11,574CCF 2,269 acres	64,228CCF 5,852 acres

(Information Current as of FY 2015)

For more information, contact Denise Rains, Public Affairs Officer, at (850) 523-8568

USDA Forest Service, 325 John Knox Road Suite F-100, Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Non-Discrimination Statement: In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.