



Get to Know Your National Forests in Florida

Apalachicola * Osceola * Ocala

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Discover Florida's Forests

The National Forests in Florida includes three forests—the Apalachicola, Osceola and Ocala. Combined, these national forest lands span more than 1.2 million acres in north and central Florida. The National Forests in Florida also manages the 1,400-mile Florida National Scenic Trail which is one of 11 national scenic trails in the United States.



Vital Statistics

When were the forests established? At 383,689 acres, the Ocala National Forest is the oldest and southernmost forest in the continental United States. It

was proclaimed by Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 and was the first national forest east of the Mississippi.

The Osceola National Forest was created by a Presidential Proclamation in July 1931 due to the land being heavily cutover and burned. At 229,185 acres, this “flatwoods” forest is comprised of low pine ridges separated by cypress and bay swamps, and are remnants of Florida in its original state.

The Apalachicola National Forest, established in 1936, is the largest national forest in Florida at 571,088 acres with 2,735 acres of water. Six watersheds within the Apalachicola provide fresh water streams, rivers, lakes and natural springs.

Who visits the National Forests in Florida? With large urban population centers of Jacksonville, Orlando,

Daytona, Tampa and Tallahassee within close proximity, the forests are some of the most highly visited in the east with an average visitation of 2.7 million people annually.

What wildlife makes its home in Florida's forests?

The Apalachicola is home to the largest population of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers. The Ocala is the only National Forest that the threatened Florida scrub jay calls home. 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-road vehicle (OHV) riding, the National Forests in Florida has the largest off-road trail system in the region. The high number and diversity of campgrounds and day-use areas also rank at the top of the National Forests in the southern region. About 182 miles of the Florida Trail traverse through the forests, giving visitors a chance to enjoy Florida's natural environment while walking, hiking or wildlife viewing.

What are some special features? The Ocala boasts four pristine springs all perfect for snorkeling or swimming and is home to the remaining vestiges of the imperiled sand pine/scrub ecosystem.

The Apalachicola has open wet, grassy areas that are fragile savannahs providing refuge for an unusual combination of grasses, delicate orchids and carnivorous pitcher plants. The forested woodlands and swamps of the Osceola are remnants of Florida in its original state.



Forest Facts at a Glance

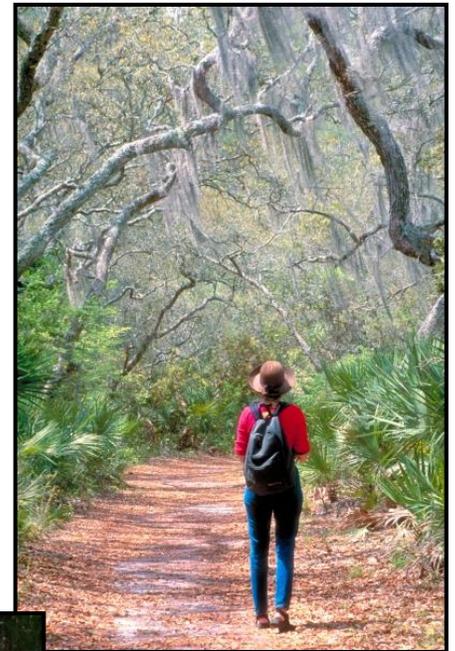
General Forest Facts

1.2 million acres of managed land
 \$25 million average annual budget
 190 employees

Recreation

2.7 million visitors annually
 65 developed recreation sites

Acreege



	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola	Total Acres
General Acres	567,742	383,689	229,186	1,180,617
Wilderness Areas Acres	32,726	13,871	28,736	75,333

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

59 historic structures
 3,004 archeological sites



Wildlife

	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola	Total
RCW clusters (active)	624	55	100	770
Bald Eagle Nests (active)	6	53	1	60
Fledgling Bald Eagles	0	57	0	57
Florida Scrub Jay Groups	0	803	0	803
Florida Black Bears	438-695	729-1,056	200-313	1,367-2,064

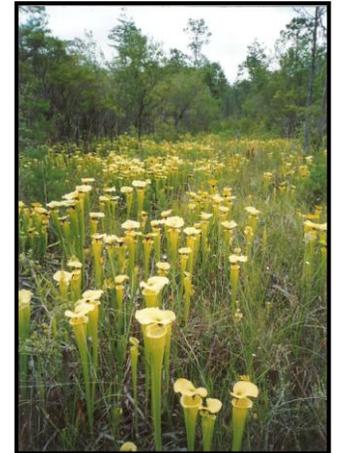
Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

	Plants	Animals
Endangered Species	3	8
Threatened Species	6	7
Sensitive Species	136	36
Total	145	51



Fire: Prescribed Burning

	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola	Total
Rough Reduction	99,273	38,019	21,512	158,804
Silviculture	0	0	0	0
Range Improvement	0	0	0	0
Wildlife Improvement	816	0	560	1,376
Total Acres Burned by Prescribed Fire	100,089	38,019	22,072	160,180



Trails

	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola
Hike	16	28	5
Mountain Bike	19	22	0
Motorized OHV	34	138	0
Motorcycle	55	13	0
Equestrian	0	134	53
Mixed-Use Roads	52	107	377
Florida National Scenic Trail (miles traversing forest lands only)	67	95	20
Total Miles	243	537	455



Timber

	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola	Total
Timber Offered for Sale	11,051 CCF 1,670 acres	22,983 CCF 2,064 acres	7,893 CCF 865 acres	41,927 CCF 4,599 acres
Timber Harvested	6,062 CCF 1,144 acres	26,347 CCF 1,378 acres	4,039 CCF 791 acres	36,448 CCF 3,313 acres

(Information Current as of April 2010)



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