



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 1,000-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 229,926 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 567,797 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?

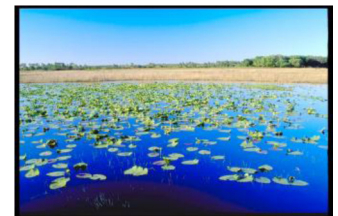
The Apalachicola is home to the largest population of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers. The Ocala is the only National Forest that the threatened Florida scrub jay calls home. With diverse bird populations and growing Florida black bear populations, the forests are ideal locations for bird watchers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

What type of recreation is available?

From primitive wilderness to off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, the National Forests in Florida has the largest OHV 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 190 miles of the Florida National Scenic 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

30 historic structures
 3,294 archeological sites



Wildlife

	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola	Total
RCW clusters (active)	693	68	139	900
Bald Eagle Nests (active)	6	53	1	60
Fledgling Bald Eagles	no data	81	no data	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	10
Threatened Species	6	8
Sensitive Species	136	36



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	19	23	5
Mountain Bike	20	22	0
Motorized OHV	34	138	0
Motorcycle	50	12	0
Equestrian	0	134	61
Mixed-Use Roads	52	107	377
Florida National Scenic Trail (miles traversing forest lands only)	70	96	24
Total Miles	245	532	467



Timber

	Apalachicola	Ocala	Osceola	Total
Timber Offered for Sale	15,725 CCF 4,672 acres	20,268 CCF 2,091 acres	20,075 CCF 3,265 acres	56,068 CCF 10,028 acres
Timber Harvested	24,033 CCF 4,543 acres	5,107 CCF 267 acres	8,135 CCF 1,595 acres	37,275 CCF 6,405 acres

(Information Current as of FY 2011)



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