

Buck Lake Conservation Area



Description

The Buck Lake tract consists of 9,606 acres of natural woodlands and wetlands that have been used historically for pine and hardwood timber production and cattle ranching. The ridge found in the eastern part of the property supports scrubby flatwoods and oak hammock that provide appropriate habitat for scrub jays. A basin swamp community dominates the eastern third of the property. This swamp and depression marsh receive surface water runoff from adjacent uplands and discharge into a wet prairie that makes up the headwaters of Six Mile Creek. This creek runs southward to Salt Lake, Loughman Lake and eventually to the St. Johns River. The western portion of the property features a large floodplain marsh and a marsh lake, Buck Lake. The property protects regionally significant habitat for several plant and animal species and provides floodwater retention to slow downstream flooding.

Recreational activities

Seasonal hunting, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, fishing, wildlife viewing and primitive camping at designated sites.

Wildlife viewing

Please respect Florida's wildlife and use caution while visiting district lands. These are wild animals. For your safety, do not approach or feed any wild animal. Wildlife seen on the property include scrub-jays, gopher tortoise, bald eagles, otter, deer, woodpeckers, owls, bobcats, alligators, turkey, herons, egrets and fox.

Access

Parking areas can be accessed from SR 46. From the I-95/SR 46 interchange, the first is approximately one mile west on SR 46 on the north side of the road. The second is approximately 6.5 miles west on SR 46 on the north side of the road. The third can be accessed approximately 10 miles west on SR 46, then turning north onto Morgan Alderman Road and going approximately 0.25 mile; the parking area is on the road's east side.

Courtesy of the St. Johns River Water Management District