



The O2O News

Newletter for the O2O Partnership

February 21, 2019

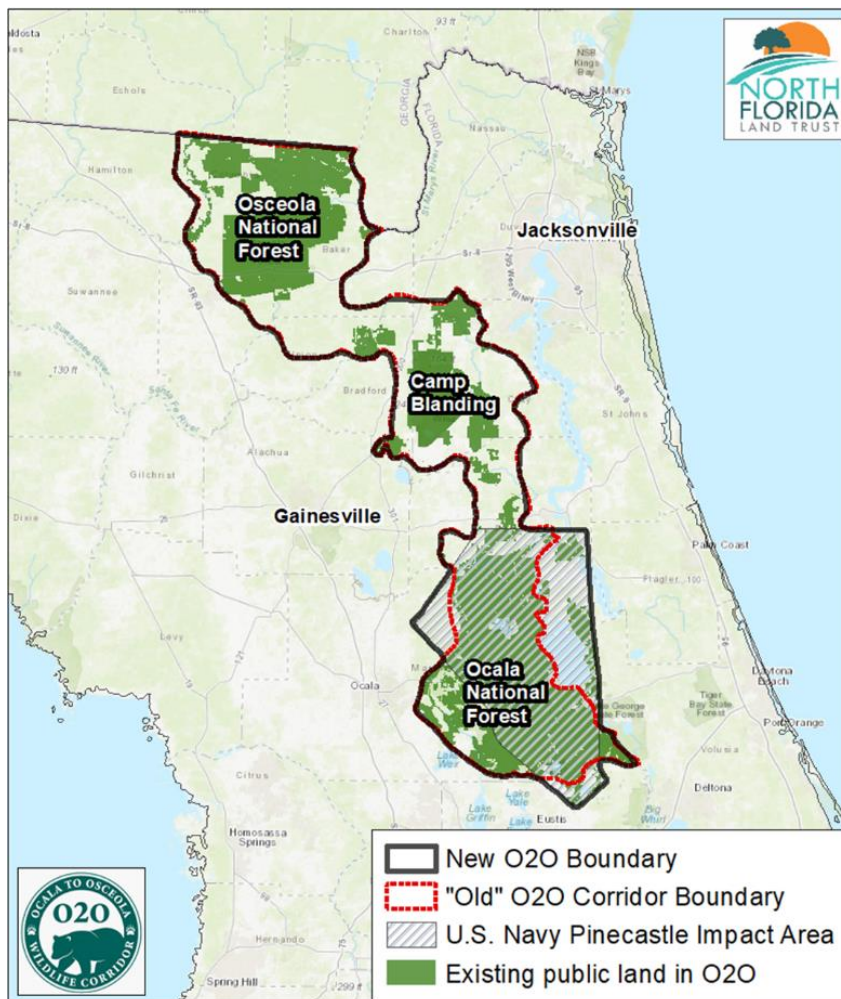
- *The O2O Partnership works to protect and improve ecological conditions of the Ocala to Osceola Wildlife Corridor in North Florida*

Welcome to the Inaugural O2O News, a newsletter for the O2O Partnership with updates on conservation projects, programs and planning in the Ocala to Osceola Wildlife Corridor. As the North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) Program Manager for the O2O, I will be periodically updating you about conservation accomplishments and ongoing projects. I encourage all Partners to contribute to this newsletter – just send me your updates! Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Susan Carr, North Florida Land Trust

scarr@NFLT.org

The O2O Gets a New Look!



The new O2O Boundary was rolled out at last July's meeting and approved by the Partners. We incorporated the impact area for the U.S. Navy bombing ranges in and around the Ocala National Forest. This is what it now looks like – note the fan shaped expansion around the Forest that takes in the Impact Area. Further north, the boundaries remain the same.

We are using this new footprint for our marketing and outreach. However, the "old" O2O boundaries are still associated with some specific programs and partnerships such as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP). The "old" O2O boundaries are shown by the red outline.

We will be working with the U.S. Navy and Ocala NF to protect land in the impact areas shown on the map.

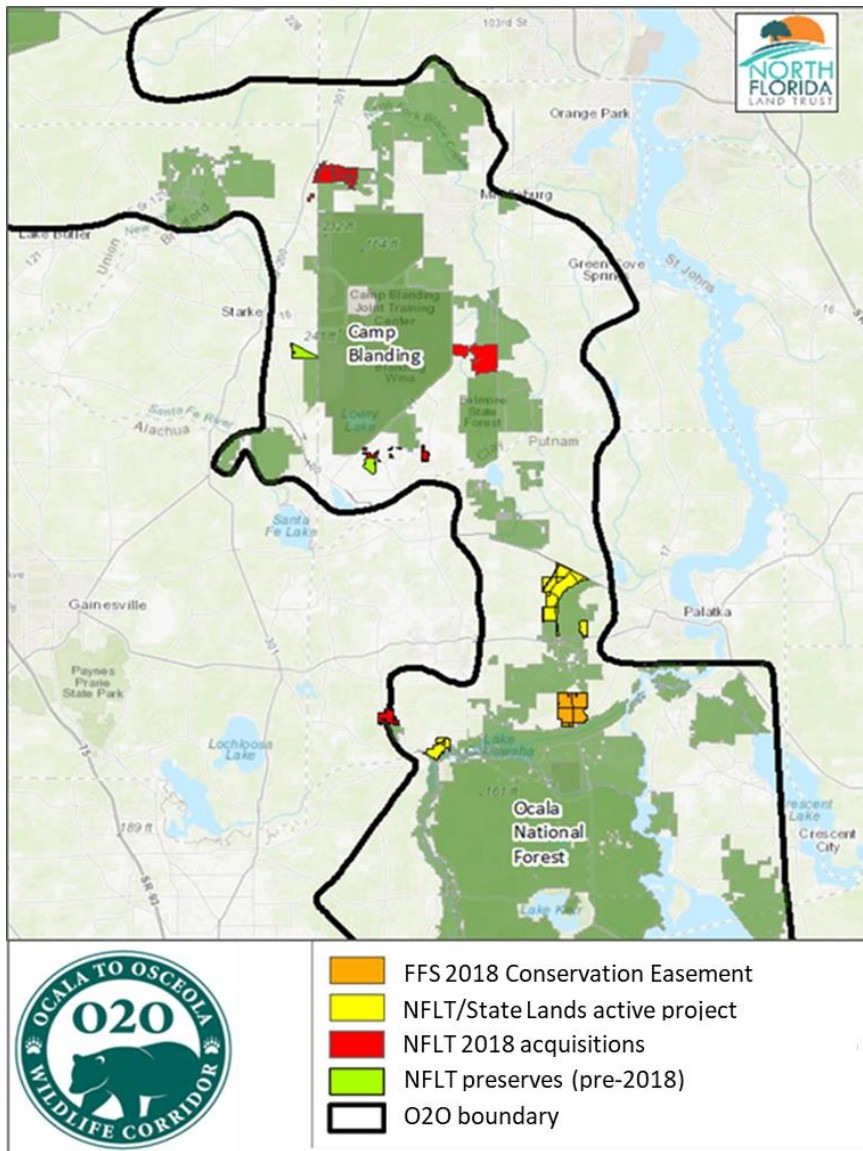
If anyone wants shapefiles and/or new map images for this new O2O, please contact Susan.

The O2O has a new logo!

In our efforts to brand the O2O, we are using this new logo in marketing materials. It is available in digital format and if anyone wants the file, please contact Susan.



O2O 2018 Conservation accomplishments



Land Protection - Last year was big for O2O conservation, with over 7,000 acres of newly acquired conservation lands and easements.

The newly protected land is concentrated in the Central O2O region. The map shows acquisition by organization and year (2018 and before 2018). NFLT purchased **5,306 acres** (fee and conservation easement) through the **Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program** as partners with Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC). These acquisitions greatly increase protected areas in the ACUB. In addition, NFLT purchased **679 acres** in Putnam County with the support of private donors. The newly-named **Putnam Lakes Preserve** is a significant piece of NFLT’s Preservation Portfolio, which includes lands identified for strategic resource conservation. The Rodman Plantation acquisition by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) through the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program adds another 1,576 acres of critical connector lands to the O2O. Finally, there are some large conservation projects in the works, the largest of which are Florida Forever acquisitions. We look forward to these closing in 2019!

Do you have a land protection project from 2018 or an active project you’d like to share

with the O2O Partnership? If so, please contact Susan to be included in the next issue!

In sum, 2018 was a great year for O2O land protection and significant strides were made toward our collective goal of **10,000 acres protected by 2022**. And, our long-term goal of **140,000 acres protected by 2050!!**

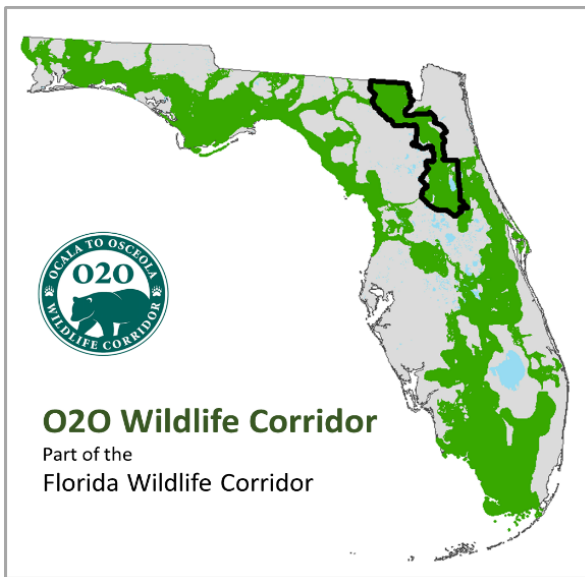
2018 O2O Conservation land acquisitions: Number of properties indicated in parentheses.

Purchase type	Organization	Program	Acres	Total price
Conservation easement (1)	Florida Forest Service (FFS)	RFLPP	1,576	\$ 540,000
Conservation easements (2)	North Florida Land Trust (NFLT)	ACUB	2,551	\$ 8,097,000
Fee (2)	North Florida Land Trust	ACUB	2,969	\$ 7,043,818
Fee (1)	North Florida Land Trust	Private donations	679	\$ 1,561,293
TOTAL			7,775	\$ 17,242,111

NFLT made headlines in 2018! For a summary wrap up of NFLT’s record year in conservation:

<https://www.jacksonville.com/news/20190210/north-florida-land-trust-marks-record-conservation-year>

O2O Conservation Partnership Updates



There are several partnerships centered on various parts of the overall conservation initiative. Here is a brief update – I am sure there are others that I’ve missed, so please let Susan know and I will add!

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – this partnership between NRCS and NFLT centers on land protection through the Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) and includes several of the O2O Partner organizations. NFLT and NRCS signed the official agreement last September, kicking off the program.

Partnership between NFLT and Suwannee River Water Management District – NFLT is now assisting the Suwannee River Water Management District with its natural lands

acquisition program. NFLT will manage real estate transactions for environmentally significant properties approved by the District Board for acquisition.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor – FLWC will be working with the O2O Partnership on marketing material, which may include a new video about our piece of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The O2O was featured in a recent FLWC newsletter, which you can check out here: https://mailchi.mp/floridawildlifecorridor/876509-876517?fbclid=IwAR2C7-W5_LFkrLo4plhcXLqN4CXhwb5izHAhOelphaK12aR68gYq5O375gQ

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities – Last year the Endowment awarded NFLT with capacity funding through the Healthy Watersheds Consortium grant, which directly supports conservation planning, landowner outreach, Partnership collaboration and marketing for the O2O. We will continue to partner with the Endowment through 2020 as we pursue land protection to benefit watersheds in the O2O.

O2O In the Works in 2019



- NFLT is working with Division of State Lands (FDEP) on two fee acquisitions in the O2O. If all goes well, these will close later this year.
- NFLT and Camp Blanding submitted a REPI challenge grant proposal for acquisition of lands in the western part of the ACUB
- NFLT is working with NRCS toward an open application period for the Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP). We anticipate that this conservation easement program will be open to O2O landowners this summer.
- Several O2O landowners have indicated interest in donating easements, and NFLT is working with them toward this end.

- NFLT and others continue landowner outreach, as we assemble projects for consideration by the Florida Forever program (Division of State Lands). Some of these are significant tracts, for which we are seeking Partnership support and will be discussing at our next O2O Partners meeting.
- NFLT continues its work with Camp Blanding this year. Currently, acquisition efforts are underway on over 4,000 acres.
- NFLT and the Florida Trail Association are looking at relocating a couple of miles of on-road section of the Florida Trail to an NFLT preserve property near Goldhead Branch State Park.
- The Sentinel Landscape application period did not open in 2018. However, we anticipate either an open application period or invitation to apply for designation in 2019, so stay tuned!

The Partners – who are we?

STATE AGENCIES

Camp Blanding/Florida National Guard
 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 St. Johns and Suwannee River Water Management Districts
 FDACS Florida Forest Service
 Florida Department of Environmental Protection

FEDERAL AGENCIES

U.S. Forest Service
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 U.S. Navy

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

North Florida Land Trust
 Alachua Conservation Trust
 Putnam Land Conservancy
 The Nature Conservancy
 Florida Wildlife Corridor
 Conservation Florida
 Florida Trail Association
 North Florida Prescribed Burn Association