

West Central Florida's known as the "Nature Coast" has one of Florida's greatest secrets, which could well be one of Florida's greatest assets. The Withlacoochee State Forest is Declared as one of the "10 Coolest Places you've Never Been in North America" by the World Wildlife Fund. So for those of you looking to escape the daily high speed routines of city life, read on. The Withlacoochee State Forest might be just what you are looking for. With 157,479 acres of pristine wilderness scattered over Citrus, Hernando, Pasco & Sumter, discover why this little known area of Florida gets 300,000 eco visitors a year. Over the past almost 30 years selling horse property and hideaways along and near the State Forest to those who want to enjoy all it has to offer has been Gary Schraut's specialty. Attached is some more information that will go into detail about what this wonderful Florida Forest has to offer. If you think this area of Florida might interest you, visit our website at www.schraut.com to view properties in Hernando County....Gateway to the "Nature Coast".

Withlacoochee State Forest

TOTAL ACREAGE: 157,479

COUNTIES: CITRUS, PASCO, HERNANDO, SUMTER



Withlacoochee State Forest is currently the third largest state forest in Florida and is divided into eight distinct tracts of land. Using sound ecosystem management, the Division of Forestry provides for multiple-use of the forest resources which includes timber management, wildlife management, ecological restoration, and outdoor recreation. The size and diversity of Withlacoochee State Forest provides visitors with a variety of natural communities, wildlife and recreation activities to enjoy.

Withlacoochee State Forest was acquired by the federal government from private landowners between 1936 and 1939 under the provisions of the U.S. Land Resettlement Administration. The U.S. Forest Service managed the property until a lease-purchase agreement transferred the property to the Florida Board of Forestry in 1958.

Location

Withlacoochee State Forest's location provides convenient access for many visitors since it is within two hours driving time from Cape Canaveral, Orlando, and several other points of interest. The State Forest is located in west central Florida with headquarters located on U.S. Highway 41 approximately seven miles north of the town of Brooksville and 50 miles north of the city of Tampa.

Natural Features

Withlacoochee State Forest has several waterways which flow through different portions of the property. The Withlacoochee River, Little Withlacoochee River and Jumper Creek have all been designated as Outstanding Florida Waters. The most notable is the Withlacoochee River which meanders through 13 miles of the forest.

Withlacoochee is an Indian word meaning "crooked river" which accurately describes the river as it makes its 70-mile journey from the Green Swamp in northern Polk County to the Gulf of Mexico at Yankeetown.

A variety of tree species create dense woodlands and canopy trails. Species found on the forest include: slash pine, longleaf pine, pond cypress, bald cypress and a mixture of oak, maple, southern magnolia, gum and hickory. Springtime forest visitors will be delighted with the colorful blossoms produced by the abundance of wildflowers. Flower varieties such as goldenrod, thistle and blazing star can be found along state forest roadways.

Recreation

Declared as one of the "10 Coolest Places You've Never Been in North America" by the World Wildlife Fund, Withlacoochee State Forest has numerous outdoor recreational opportunities available for everyone. Over 300,000 people visit the forest annually.



Trailtrotter Program...
Explore the forest on horseback.

The majority of the land within Withlacoochee State Forest is included in Florida's Wildlife Management

Area program and offers seasonal hunting opportunities. Fishing is a popular activity on the Withlacoochee's waterways where largemouth bass and panfish are frequently caught. Hunting and fishing on Withlacoochee State Forest are regulated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Contact us for:

Trail brochures
Current trail conditions
Trail closures during hunt seasons, special events, prescribed burns, flooding,
etc.

Contact information for trail groups offering guided tours of trails.

In keeping with its mission to protect and manage Florida's forest resources, the Division of Forestry has developed rules which apply to all State Forest visitors. [READ MORE](#)

| Trails | | | | Campsites | | Other | |
|--------|------|-------|-------|------------|---------------|-----------------|--|
| HIKE | BIKE | HORSE | CANOE | CAMP SITES | WITH ELECTRIC | LEASHED PETS OK | MORE ACTIVITIES |
| ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Picnicking, Fishing, OHV trail, Boat ramp, Hunting |