Size: 5,787 acres.

Location: Along the Econlockhatchee River in Seminole County, south of CR 426 and north of CR 419, approximately five miles east of Oviedo and north of Chuluota.

Description: The overall project area will include approximately 15,540 acres; about 30 percent is now in public ownership. This is a partnership project by the District, the state CARL program and Seminole County. Of the 15 miles of Econlockhatchee River shoreline within the whole project, about seven miles are within the current State Forest, established by the Florida Legislature in 1994. This area includes a regionally significant blackwater stream system singled out for preservation. The Little-Big Econ State Forest will provide a wildlife corridor connecting the southern part of the Econ Basin to the Tosohatchee State Preserve and other District lands along the St. Johns River for approximately 100 miles from SR 46 to the Florida Turnpike.

Wildlife viewing: The area supports a diversity of wildlife including resident and migratory waterfowl, wood storks, wading birds, shorebirds as well as numerous upland species such as deer and turkey. Other common sightings of wildlife include sandhill cranes, roseate spoonbills, bald eagles, ospreys and hawks.

Recreational activities: FTA has developed hiking trails within the forest. Canoeing along the Econ is a favorite, with improved canoe launch areas planned. Other activities include fishing, bird-watching, picnicking and nature study. Primitive camping, horseback riding and bicycling are allowed. A portion of the property at SR 46 is a Type I WMA.

Restrictions: To ensure public safety and environmental protection, the following are not allowed: firearms (except with permit during hunting season), trapping devices; motorcycles, all-terrain or track vehicles; removal of plants or animals.

Access: From SR 426, south on Snowhill Road which brings you into the heart of the area. A second tract can be accessed from SR 46, southeast of Lake Harney.

For more information: Call DOF at (407) 366-8063 or the District’s Division of Land Management at (407) 893-3127. For hunting information, see pages 110-111.