

Press Release **April 16, 2007**

Land South Sale of the Joshua Creek Conservation Area

Land South Hunters, LLC, completed the sale of 4,614 acres of pristine Central Florida land to a governmental partnership on April 5, 2007. The governmental partnership of the St. John's River Water Management District, the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Orange County, purchased the property, known as the Joshua Creek Conservation Area, located in east Orange County for \$50 million. The land purchase was originally approved by the Orange County Commission, the SJRWMD board, and the Florida Cabinet last year. The actual sale took place this April due to the time required to survey and document the large land tract.

Located 6 miles east of the University of Central Florida on Fort Christmas Road, ninety percent of the native tract contains undisturbed temperate hardwood forests, hydric hammocks, and mesic and wet flatwoods. There are over 13 miles of named creeks and unnamed branches and drains, including 3 named tributaries of the St. Johns River: Joshua Creek, Christmas Creek and Buscombe Creek. The Joshua Creek Conservation Area contains over 2 miles of St. Johns River floodplain. The eastern border is made up of the St. Johns River and SJRWMD lands and the south border is made up of the City of Orlando's Wetland Park.

As part of the Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem Florida Forever project, this area protects a natural area along Puzzle Lake where the Econlockhatchee River flows into the St. Johns. The project adds to other conservation lands along the river, preserving habitat for the bald eagle, Florida black bear as well as rare aquatic bird and plant species and preserving several archaeological sites.

When complete, the Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem project will protect approximately 28,031 acres. With the Joshua Creek Conservation Area, more than 12,730 acres have been preserved, protecting a large expanse of undeveloped land between the growing cities of Orlando and Titusville. The property will be managed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry as an addition to Little Big Econ State Forest.

Land South Hunters, LLC., is a subsidiary of Land South Holdings, LLC, a Mulberry, Florida, company owned by Brian Philpot and Rob Harper specializing in investment in large land tracts throughout the southeastern United States.