

Miami Tiger Beetle (*Cicindelidia floridana*): Proposed Critical Habitat Public Hearing

*Closed captioning is available by selecting the Closed Caption icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen



Photo by Jonathan Mays, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

*Please join using computer audio

Welcome!

The meeting will begin momentarily.
Thank you for your patience as we
wait for others to join.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – December 2, 2021



Meeting Agenda

- Meeting Ground Rules
- USFWS Presentation
- Public Hearing
- Closing Remarks

Meeting Ground Rules

1. The meeting is being recorded and will be posted to:
<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/florida>
2. Microphones and videos of participants will be restricted for the duration of the meeting unless the moderator unmutes you during the verbal public hearing portion.
3. Verbal public comments can be provided after the presentation. Written comments can also be submitted at <https://www.regulations.gov> (in the Search box, enter FWS-R4-ES-2021-0053)

What Action Is Being Proposed?

- **We proposed critical habitat for the Miami tiger beetle on September 7, 2021.**
- **A Public Comment period is currently open through December 23, 2021.**
 - **Please submit comments via the upcoming public hearing, electronically online, or in writing.**
- **A final critical habitat rule is due September 7, 2022.**

What Is Critical Habitat

- **Critical habitat identifies geographic areas that are important to conserving federally listed threatened or endangered species.**
- **Federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS before they authorize, carry out, or fund any activity that may impact a listed species or designated critical habitat.**

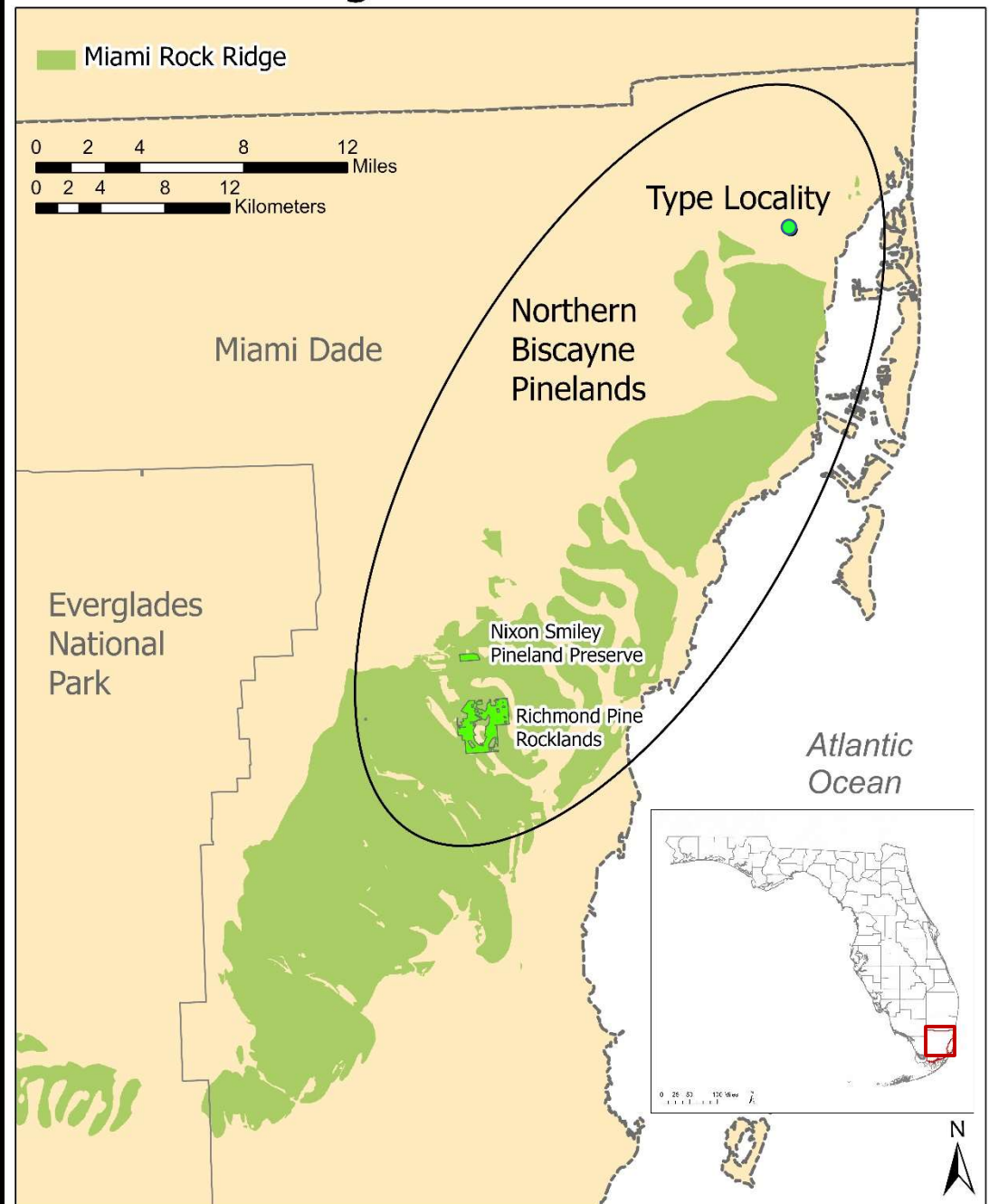
What Critical Habitat Is Not

- Designating critical habitat does not affect land ownership or establish a refuge, wilderness, reserve, preserve, or other conservation area.
- Critical habitat does not stop development.
- Critical habitat does not affect all activities within a designated area, only those actions that require a Federal permit, license, or funding.
 - The USFWS will work with the Federal agency to amend their project so that it can proceed without adversely modifying the critical habitat.

Miami Tiger Beetle

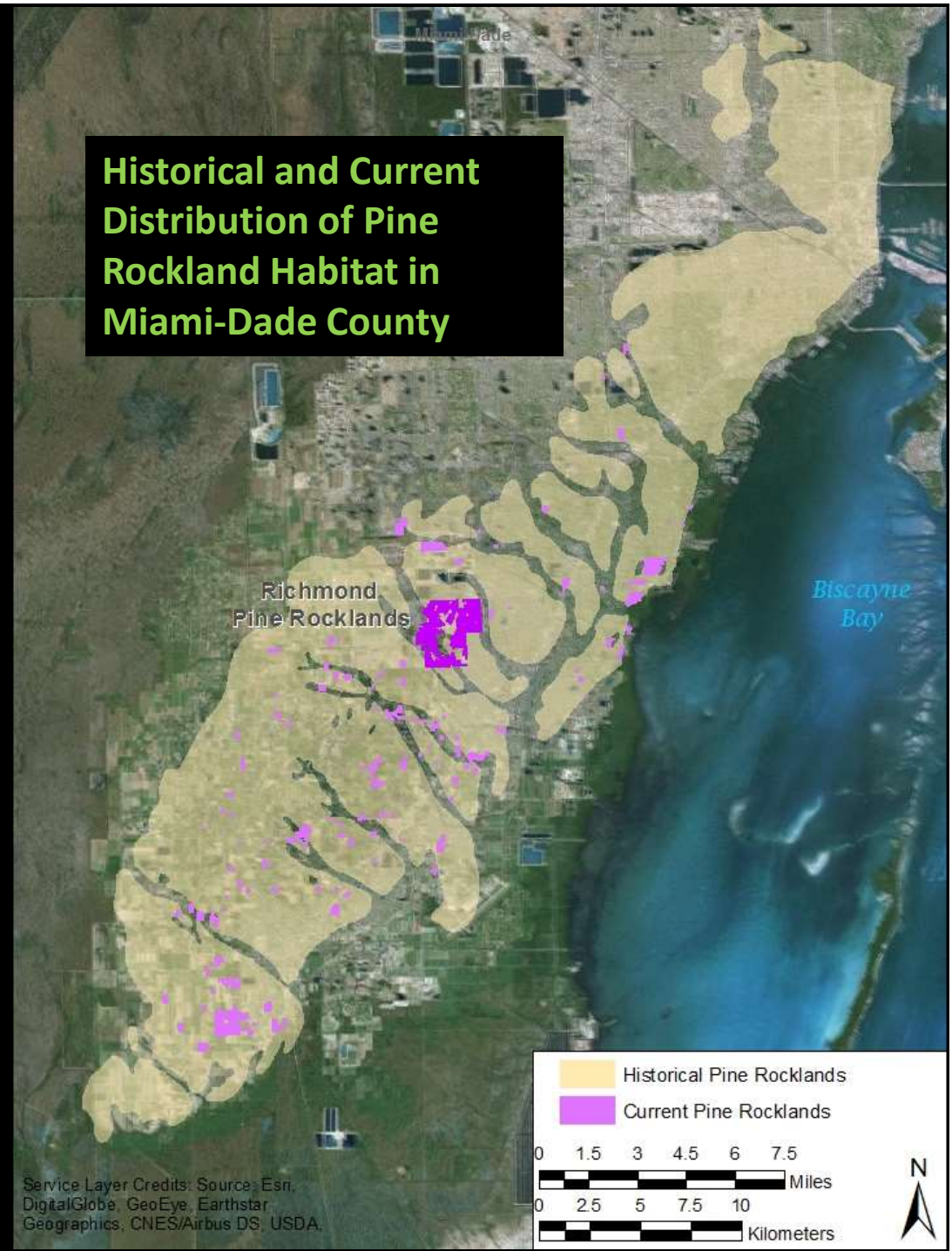
- Endemic to pine rockland habitat in Miami-Dade County
- First documented in 1934 from North Miami
- Considered extinct
- 2007 rediscovered in Richmond Pine Rocklands
- 2014 Petition for listing
- 2016 Listed as Endangered
- Two known populations at Richmond Pine Rocklands and Nixon Smiley Pineland Preserve

Miami Tiger Beetle Occurrences



Threats

- Globally imperiled habitat
- Habitat loss of 98%
- Remaining pine rockland habitat highly fragmented
- Lack of prescribed fire
 - Vegetation encroachment
- Current and future development projects
- Collection
- Climate Change / Sea Level Rise



Miami Tiger Beetle Range

Considerations for Delineating Range

- Limited historical data (one extirpated location)
- At the time of listing and since - two, small, isolated populations (Richmond and Nixon Smiley)
- Adult and larval MTB require open, sandy areas for thermoregulation, feeding, oviposition, and larval development.
- Based on limited occurrences and species' needs, we concluded the MTB is restricted to the Northern Biscayne Pinelands of the Miami Rock Ridge.
 - Northern Biscayne Pinelands characterized by extensive quartz sands



Physical or Biological Features

- Pine rockland habitat of at least 2.5 acres in size and maintained by natural or prescribed fire or other disturbance regimes
- Open sandy areas within or directly adjacent to the south Florida pine rockland habitat with little to no vegetation that allows for or facilitates normal behavior and growth such as thermoregulation, foraging, egg laying, larval development, and habitat connectivity, which promotes the overall distribution and expansion of the species.

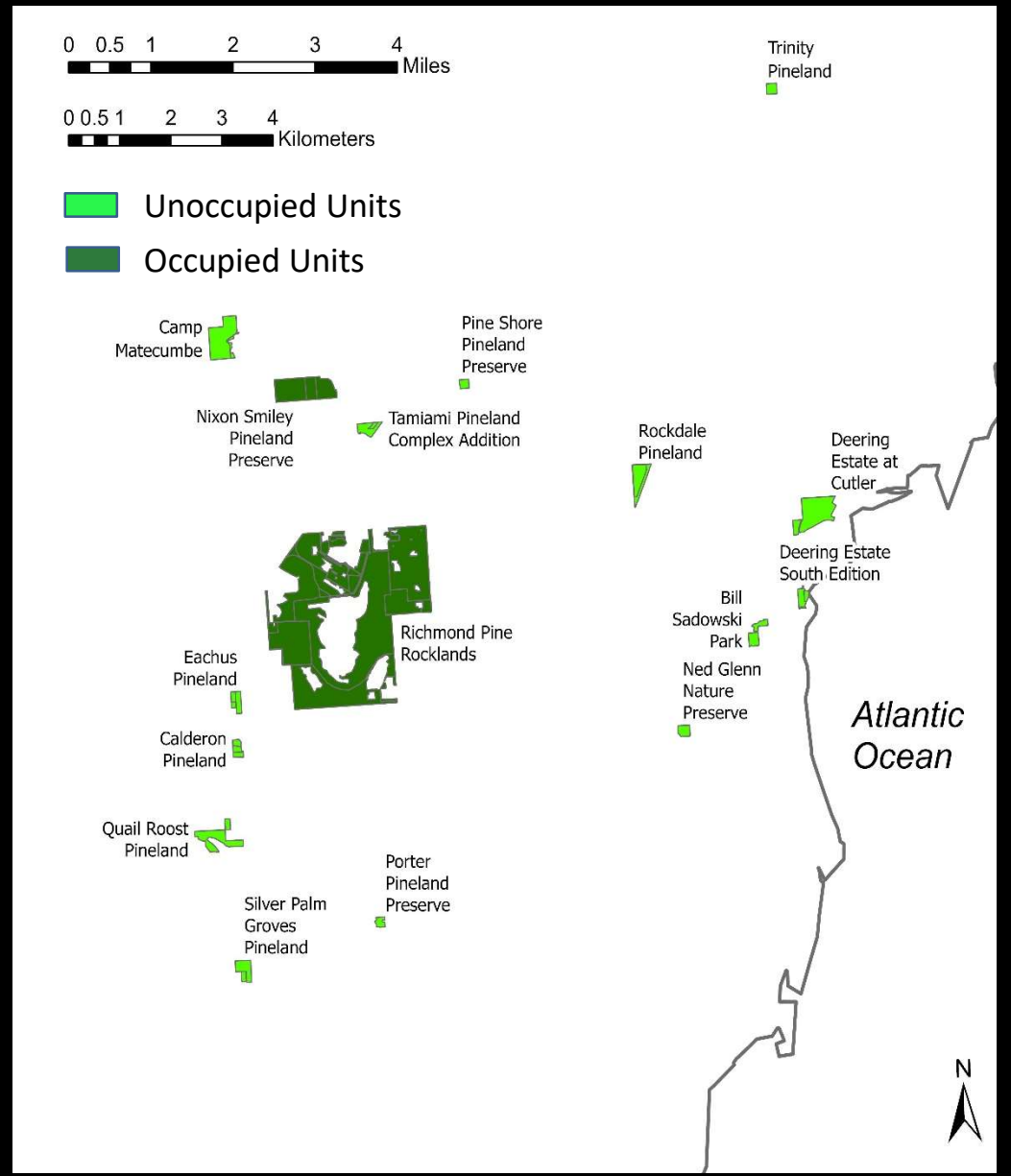


Area Proposed as Critical Habitat

- 16 units (1,977 ac)
 - 2 occupied units (1,572 ac)
 - 14 unoccupied units (406 ac)
- 14 unoccupied units
 - Contain features for species
 - Currently managed to maintain pine rocklands



Miami Tiger Beetle Proposed Critical Habitat

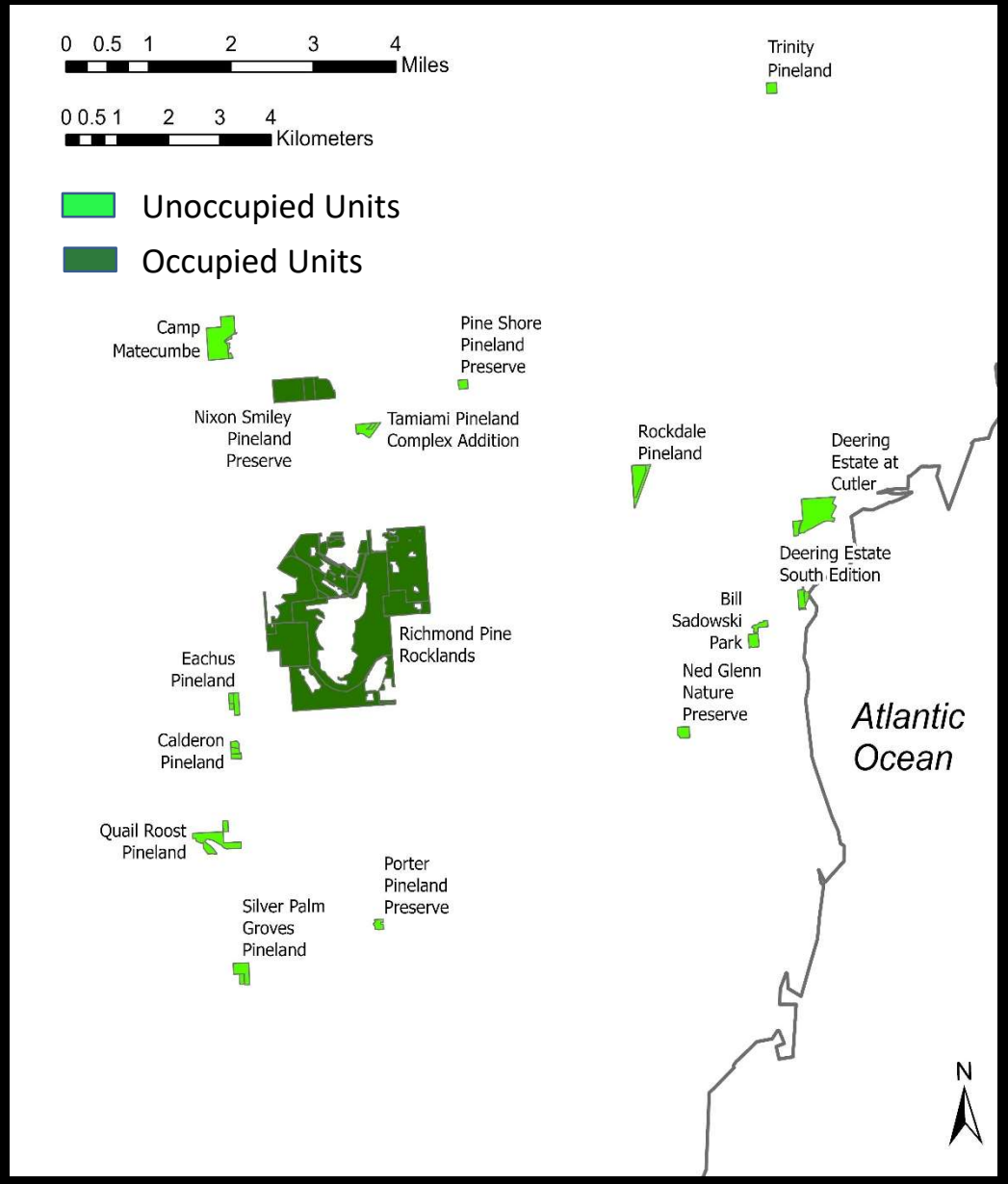


Parcel Number	Parcel Name	Total Area (acres)
1	Trinity Pineland	10
2	Rockdale Pineland	39
3	Deering Estate South Edition	16
4	Ned Glenn Nature Preserve	11
5	Deering Estate at Cutler	89
6	Silver Palm Groves Pineland	25
7	Quail Roost Pineland	48
8	Eachus Pineland	17
9	Bill Sadowski Park	20
10	Tamiami Pineland Complex Addition	21
11	Pine Shore Pineland Preserve	8
12 ★	Nixon Smiley Pineland Preserve	117
13	Camp Matecumbe	81
14 ★	Richmond Pinelands	1,455
15	Calderon Pineland	14
16	Porter Pineland Preserve	7
Total	Total	1,977



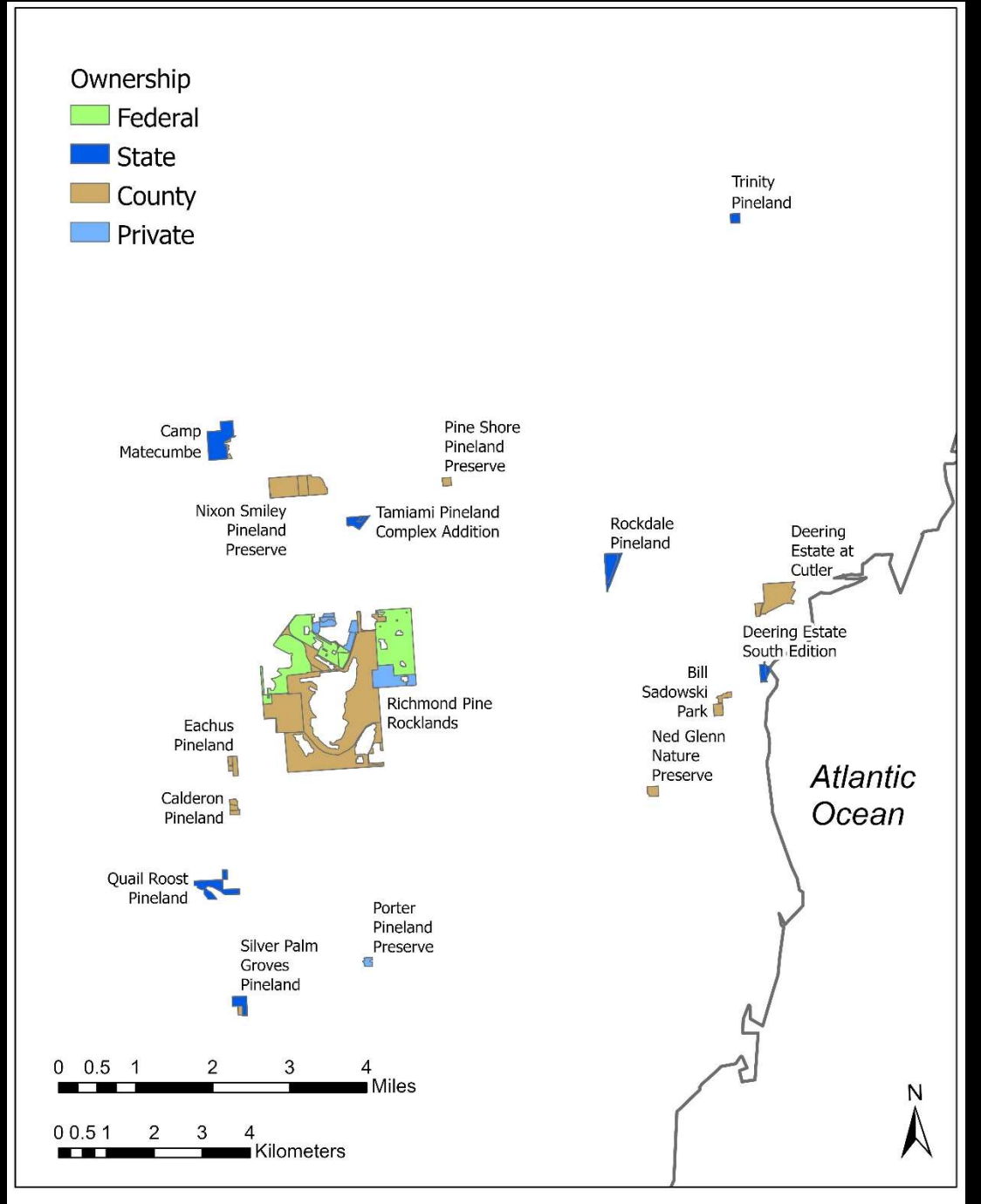
Occupied Parcels

Miami Tiger Beetle Proposed Critical Habitat



Ownership of Proposed Critical Habitat

Ownership	Acres	% Ownership
Federal	488	25
State	229	12
County	1,130	57
Private	131	7
TOTAL	1,977	



Parcels	Parcel Name	Total Overlapping Existing CH (acres)	Acres Exclusive to MTB Proposed Critical Habitat
1	Trinity Pineland	10	0
2	Rockdale Pineland	38	1
3	Deering Estate South Edition	15	1
4	Ned Glenn Nature Preserve	11	0
5	Deering Estate Cutler	84	5
6	Silver Palm Groves Pineland	22	3
7	Quail Roost Pineland	47	1
8	Eachus Pineland	17	0
9	Bill Sadowski Park	19	1
10	Tamiami Pineland Complex Addition	19	2
11	Pine Shore Pineland Preserve	8	0
12 ★	Nixon Smiley Pineland Preserve	115	2
13	Camp Matecumbe	77	4
14 ★	Richmond Pine Rocklands	937	518
15	Calderon Pineland	14	0
16	Porter Pineland Preserve	7	0
Total	Totals	1,440	537

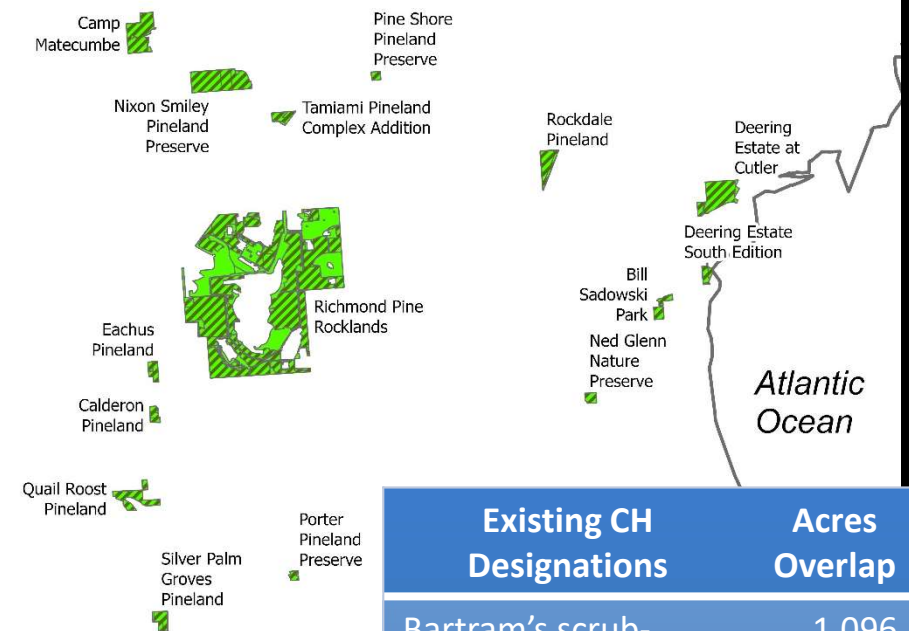
Proposed and Existing Critical Habitat Overlap

Existing Critical Habitat

Miami Tiger Beetle Proposed Critical Habitat

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



★ Occupied Parcels

Existing CH Designations

Acres Overlap

Bartram's scrub-hairstreak 1,096

Florida leafwing 840

Carter's small-flowered flax 1,362

Florida brickell-bush 1,374

Summary

- Designating critical habitat allows for the conservation and protection of the physical and biological features necessary for conservation of the Miami tiger beetle.
- Critical habitat only affects projects being authorized, carried out, or funded by Federal agencies.
- Critical habitat does not place additional regulatory burden on private landowners or non-Federal agencies unless they are subject to conditions related to Federal funding or authorization.



Submitting Comments

- Orally: Oral comments will be received during the public hearing
- In writing electronically: Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal:
<https://www.regulations.gov>
In the Search box, enter FWS-R4-ES-2021-0053
- By hard copy: Submit by U.S. mail:
Public Comments Processing
Attn: FWS-R4-ES-2021-0053
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS:PRB/3W
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
- Comment deadline: **December 23, 2021**



Verbal Public Hearing: Ground Rules

- **The USFWS wants to hear from all members of the public. We will be using the following guidelines:**
 - **Be mindful of the length of your comment, so that everyone can speak**
 - **Please be respectful of others**
 - **Refrain from profanity**
- **If guidelines are not followed, your microphone will be muted, and we will move to the next person.**

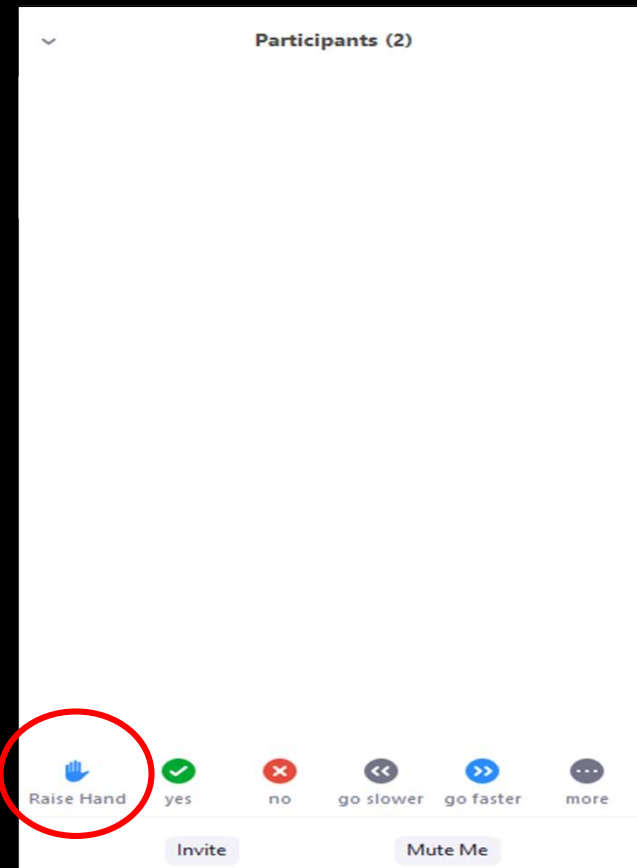
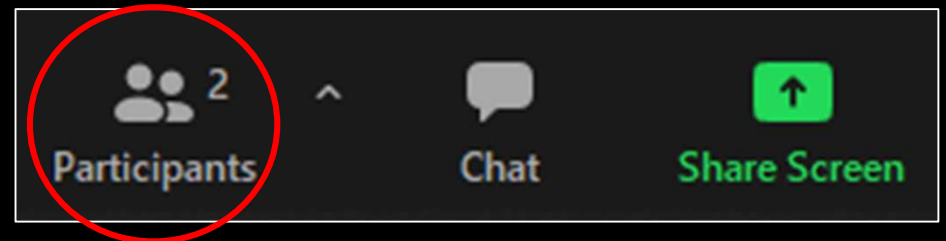
Verbal Public Hearing: Instructions for Commenters

- **Verbal public comments will be accepted in order of registration.**
- **When it is your turn, the moderator will call out your name and display your name on the screen.**
- **Use the “raise hand” feature at the bottom of your participants list or, if you are calling in through the phone, press *9 to “raise your hand.”**
- **The moderator will then unmute you.**
- **Please spell out your first and last name for the record before you provide your comment.**
- **Your comment will be included in the project record.**

Zoom Reactions Icon



Zoom Participants Icon



To access the raise hand feature, click on the participants list icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen, then click on the raise hand button at the bottom of your participants list.

If you are calling in using your phone, press ***9** on your keypad.

If you are having issues with your computer microphone, please dial in to the meeting: **Phone:** 346 248 7799; **Meeting ID:** 818 2279 7785

Current Commenter:

Next Commenter:

*If you are unable to offer or complete your verbal public comment during the meeting today, the USFWS encourages you to submit your comment in writing at <https://www.regulations.gov> (In the Search box, enter **FWS-R4-ES-2021-0053**).

Thank you!

The USFWS is available to accept verbal public comments until 7:30 pm Eastern Time.

*If you would like to offer a verbal public comment, please let us know by accessing the raise hand feature at the bottom of your participants list, in your Zoom reactions icon, or by pressing *9 on your phone keypad. You can also chat directly to Clayton McGee.*

Written comments can also be submitted at <https://www.regulations.gov> (In the Search box, enter **FWS-R4-ES-2021-0053**).