

STATE FOREST SPOTLIGHT

Sustainable Forestry Initiative®

The Florida Forest Service voluntarily participates in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative program integrates the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soils, and water.

Tate's Hell State Forest is certified to the SFI forest management standards. We are proud to be part of a growing community of landowners, conservation groups and responsible companies all working towards improving forest management.



Love the state forests? So do we!

The Friends of Florida State Forests is a direct-support organization of the Florida Forest Service dedicated to ensuring Florida's state forests are available for future generations to enjoy. Make a difference by joining today to help protect Florida's forests.

Membership dues go to the forests for conservation and improvement projects. To join Friends or for more information, visit:

www.FloridaStateForests.org



Things to Know When Visiting Tate's Hell State Forest

- Driving is permitted on designated roads only. Please use caution as some roads require all-wheel drive during wet or extremely dry weather conditions.
- Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) are only permitted in designated areas and require proper titling and a State Forest OHV Permit. All OHV riders under the age of 16 years must be in possession of their certificate of completion of a State of Florida approved OHV Safety Course.
- Take all garbage with you when you leave the forest.
- All campsites require a fee. Most sites can be reserved through Reserve America by contacting FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com or call 877-879-3859. A few sites are walk-up only and can be utilized by paying fees at Iron Rangers located within the forest. Primitive and Electric sites are available. Womack Creek Campground contains the forest's only electric campsites. Use caution with camp fires and ensure they are completely out when you leave.
- Visitors may be required to pay entrance or recreation use fees in designated areas. State forest Annual Entrance Passes are available.
- Use caution while boating and be courteous of non-motorized watercraft.
- Rope swings and diving are prohibited.
- Hunting on the forest requires a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) permit and an appropriate hunting license. Hunting is only permitted in designated areas and during appropriate seasons. All visitors are encouraged to check regulations and season dates for the appropriate WMA before visiting the forest. **For further information visit: MyFWC.com.**

For more information, visit:

www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests



Florida Forest Service

Tate's Hell State Forest



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES



History

Local legend has it that in 1875, a farmer by the name of Cebe Tate, armed with only a shotgun and accompanied by his hunting dogs, journeyed into the swamp in search of a panther that was killing his livestock. Tate became lost in the swamp for several days, was bitten by a snake, and was drinking from the murky waters. Finally he came to a clearing near Carrabelle, living only long enough to murmur the words, "My name is Cebe Tate, and I just came from Hell!" Since then the area has been known as Tate's Hell.

In the early 1950s, under ownership of private forest production companies, attempts were made to drain Tate's Hell swamp in order to grow trees. They later learned that draining the freshwater from the swamp into East Bay seriously affected the marine condition of the Bay and its estuaries.

In 1994 the first land was purchased by the state to help protect the aquatic and estuarine resources of East Bay by securing the watersheds and upland buffers of the Tate's Hell Swamp.

Forestry

The Florida Forest Service manages these lands using a multiple-use concept, which balances recreation, wildlife and timber with environmental values. Tate's Hell is a working forest that strives to 'earn its keep' while protecting wetlands and native habitats for the enjoyment of future generations. Sound forest management promotes forest health and restoration on thousands of acres of savannah and swamp that were altered over the last century.

Prescribed fire is carefully applied to reduce the risk of wildfire and to promote the fire-evolved native Florida landscape often associated with longleaf pine and wiregrass.

Tate's Hell is a green buffer to the adjacent bays and salt marshes. By restoring the hydrology and native plant communities, a steady flow of clean water flows to coastal fish nurseries to replenish the Gulf.



Cash Creek Campground



Ralph G. Kendrick Boardwalk



Paddling on New River

**For more information contact:
Tate's Hell State Forest Headquarters
290 Airport Road, Carrabelle, Florida 32322
Phone 850-697-0010
www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests**

Natural Resources

Tate's Hell State Forest is approximately 202,500 acres located in Franklin and Liberty counties, sharing a border with the Apalachicola National Forest to the north. Tate's Hell is a large patchwork of flatwoods and savannahs with an intricate web of creeks and wetlands. The forest features the unique dwarf cypress that only reach a mature height of about 15 feet, with some trees estimated at over a century old.

Pitcher plant prairies hold a diverse mixture of carnivorous plants, wildflowers and grasses. The carnivorous plants include glistening sundews, butterworts, bladderworts and several species of pitcher plants which trap insects in their erect trumpet-shaped leaves. Tate's Hell is home to a rich array of wildlife including deer, turkey, black bear, alligators, and many resident and migratory birds. The forest offers space, solitude, and unique natural beauty to the visitor.

Recreation

Tate's Hell State Forest lies between the Apalachicola and Ochlockonee Rivers and offers some outstanding recreation opportunities. On the bank of Ocklochonee River, Womack Creek campground offers 12 campsites with access to bathroom, picnic pavilion and boat ramp. Rock Landing Recreation Area provides 3 campsites with access to vaulted restroom, picnic pavilion and boat ramp. Cash Creek Recreation Area has 3 campsites with access to vaulted restroom, interpretive hiking trail, picnic pavilion and boat ramp. County Line OHV campground offers 3 campsites with a vaulted restroom. Other primitive campsites are dispersed throughout the forest mostly along the banks of rivers and creeks.

Gully Branch and Vinard's Place are day use sites for picnicking, fishing or simply relaxing. Other recreation opportunities include the High Bluff Coastal Hiking Trail, the Ralph G. Kendrick Boardwalk overlooking the dwarf cypress, and the OHV trail system. The forest is open to hunting and fishing regulated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. For more information about hunting and fishing, please go to MyFWC.com.