

**CAMP BLANDING–JENNINGS**

**Camp Blanding Military Reservation** (62,340 acres; 24,936 ha) and **Jennings State Forest** (20,567 acres; 8226 ha)

Clay County

82,907 acres (33,162 ha)

**LOCATION:** in western Clay County from the Duval County line south to State Road 21 near Keystone Heights, west to the Bradford County line.

**DESCRIPTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ Camp Blanding Military Reservation receives \_\_\_\_ recreationists and 9000 hunters annually, while annual use of Jennings State Forest is >500 recreationists and 350 hunters.

**OWNERSHIP:** Florida Department of Military Affairs (Camp Blanding Military Reservation), Florida Division of Forestry and St. Johns River Water Management District (Jennings State Forest)

**HABITATS: Camp Blanding Military Reservation:** \*longleaf pine flatwoods, \*pine plantation, \*sandhills, \*xeric oak scrub, \*lacustrine, sand pine scrub, fields, riverine, artificial. **Jennings State Forest:** \*longleaf pine flatwoods, \*pine plantation, \*sandhills, \*bayhead, \*riverine, temperate hammock, non-native pasture, hardwood swamp, freshwater marsh, lacustrine

**LAND USE: Camp Blanding Military Reservation:** \*military training, timber production, conservation, hunting. **Jennings State Forest:** \*conservation, recreation, hunting, timber production.

**IBA CATEGORIES: Camp Blanding Military Reservation:** significant populations of Endangered species; complete diversity of longleaf pine flatwoods species; and significant natural habitats. **Jennings State Forest:** significant populations of Threatened and Watch List species; and significant natural habitats.

**AVIAN DATA:** Both areas contain extensive areas of longleaf pine flatwoods. [Are bird lists available for either site?].

**Camp Blanding Military Reservation:**

SPECIES	DATE	NUMBERS	COMMENTS
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	1998	13 clusters	1% (R)

Data from John Kappes (University of Florida), provided by Rex Rowan (Alachua Audubon Society)

**Jennings State Forest:**

SPECIES	DATES	NUMBERS	COMMENTS
“Southeastern” American Kestrel	2000	>15 pairs	(R)
Bachman's Sparrow	2000	common	(R)
Red-cockaded Woodpecker		0 birds	extirpated in the 1950s–1960s, but good potential for natural colonization or translocation in the future

Data provided by Charlie Pedersen (Florida Division of Forestry)

**OTHER RESOURCES: Camp Blanding Military Reservation:** Numerous other scrub and flatwoods species are present, including gopher tortoise, ♦indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais*), ♦gopher frog (*Rana capito*), and Florida mouse. **Jennings State Forest:** Extensive longleaf pine flatwoods and sandhills have retained their natural ground cover. Seepage ravines contain Appalachian flora; many of the seepage slopes contain their original floral diversity.

**THREATS: Camp Blanding Military Reservation:** \*timber harvesting. **Jennings State Forest:** \*offsite development, \*feral hogs, human disturbance, exotic plants, habitat succession

**CONSERVATION ISSUES: Camp Blanding Military Reservation:** Fire management and mechanical restoration is needed in longleaf pine flatwoods to increase the number of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. • Habitat for the “Southeastern” American Kestrel needs to be increased. • Salvage logging of snags in burned areas eliminates nesting sites for kestrels and other cavity-nesting species. **Jennings State Forest** was acquired beginning in 1991. The five-year Resource Management Plan currently is up for review. Conservation issues include returning fire as a management tool, restoring longleaf pine flatwoods and sandhills, restoring the hydrology, and maintaining water quality. • The Forest contains 6000 (2400 ha) acres of flatwoods and a similar amount of sandhills, which are under “aggressive” restoration via prescribed fire, removing sand pine and slash pine from some sites, and by replanting longleaf pine. • Red-cockaded Woodpeckers have been extirpated from the Forest since the 1960s or earlier, but as the longleaf pine forests age, there is great potential for translocation, or natural colonization from Camp Blanding.

**NOMINATED BY:** Charlie Pedersen (Florida Division of Forestry) and Rex Rowan (Alachua Audubon Society)

**WEBSITE:** <[http://www.fl-dof.com/state\\_forests/Jennings.htm](http://www.fl-dof.com/state_forests/Jennings.htm)>  
<[http://www.floridaguard.net/cbts/post\\_history.htm](http://www.floridaguard.net/cbts/post_history.htm)>