

**Jones Ecological Research Center (JRC)**  
**Proposed Gradient Site**  
**Southeast Domain (Domain 3)**

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**Location:** The Jones Ecological Research Center (JRC), also known as Ichauway, is located in southwest Georgia, near the Alabama and Florida border.

**History:** JRC was established as a private quail hunting reserve in the 1920s. In 1991 the site was designated as a research center supported largely by a private foundation. By 1993, core staff members were hired in research, forest and wildlife management, and administrative support, and a newly constructed campus was completed in 1996.



**Key Characteristics:** JRC is 12,000 hectares in size and is a forested island surrounded by large-scale agricultural land use. The extensive fire-maintained longleaf pine ecosystem is a remnant of the once dominant forest type in the southeastern Coastal Plain. Much of the ground cover of the 7,285 hectares of this forest at JRC has not been disturbed by previous agricultural tillage and it is one of the most species-rich habitats in North America. JRC has an active fire management program, in which prescribed fire is used to help maintain the biological diversity of the site and to examine questions related to fire ecology. Aquatic and wetland habitats range from cypress-gum ponds and grassy, ephemeral wetlands, to riparian stream and river habitats and diverse hardwood hammocks.

**Facilities and Existing Infrastructure:** JRC is an independent research, conservation and education institution. It has modern facilities including a remote sensing/GIS laboratory and extensive local and regional data layers, well equipped microbiology and chemical laboratories, a computer network with terabytes of data storage, a research library, and various sample processing facilities. There is office space for visiting scientists as well as dormitory space for students and visitors. The herbarium contains more than 1,100 species of vascular plants from the site. JRC has easy access to all research sites is provided by a network of paved and unimproved roads and vehicles are available. JRC has three climate stations collecting meteorological data as well as information on soil temperature and moisture. Additional sensors measure streamflow, and water quality. Permanent vegetation plots are arrayed across the site and there are population censuses of numerous animal species.