

**Ordway-Swisher Biological Station (OSBS)  
Proposed Core Wildland Site  
Southeast Domain (Domain 3)**

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**Web Page:** [www.ordway-swisher.ufl.edu](http://www.ordway-swisher.ufl.edu)

**Location:** The Ordway-Swisher Biological Station (OSBS) is located roughly mid-way along a north-South gradient in Domain 3, in north-central Florida, 24 miles east of Gainesville.

**History:** The entire tract has been under single ownership since the 1930s, and was used as a private hunting and fishing camp until the 1980s when University of Florida Foundation acquired the property. OSBS is managed by the University of Florida Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. There has been relatively little human impact on OSBS for about 75 years.



**Key Characteristics:** OSBS is 3,900 hectares in size and is set in a mixed land use matrix. OSBS currently has an active fire management program, in which prescribed fire is used to help maintain and restore ecological health of the site and to investigate questions related to fire ecology. Longleaf pine sandhill comprises roughly 65 percent of the station. The station also contains xeric hammock, upland mixed forest, basin swamp, basin marsh, baygall, marsh lakes, sandhill upland lake, and clastic upland lake systems, and some patches of pine plantation. Aquatic systems include swamps, marshes, and permanent and ephemeral lakes and ponds, and include clear- and dark-water systems.

**Facilities and Existing Infrastructure:** OSBS is fully fenced and gated, and is not open to the general public. The OSBS has a well established network of unimproved roads, allowing relatively easy vehicle access to key locations across the station. OSBS has ecological data sets extending back to 1980. Water quality is monitored regularly at 8 lakes, and 50 well heads have been established to monitor groundwater. The station has three meteorological stations maintained as part of the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). OSBS has modest lodging facilities, a 20-person classroom, and office space.