

BONE VALLEY

About Bone Valley

Millions of years ago, river and streams flowing to the sea carried material washed from the land, including the remains of land animals and marine creatures inhabiting the coastal waters. Florida's phosphate rock reserves likely formed when dissolved phosphorous solidified and combined with seafloor remains.

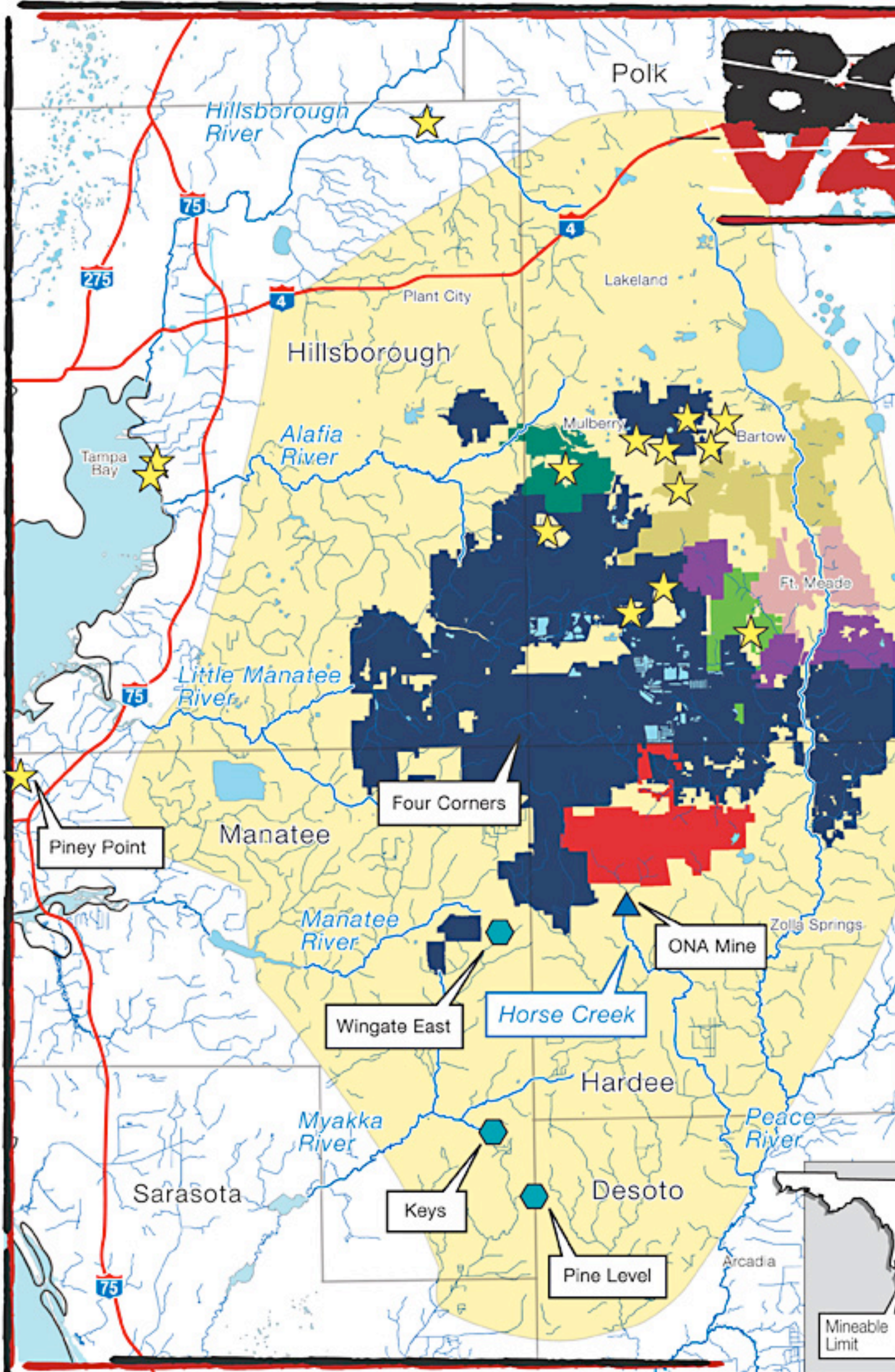
Geologists have dubbed the ancient fossil bed that now resides 20 to 40 feet below Central Florida as "Bone Valley." It sits atop the Hawthorn Formation, a layer of clay and sandy limestone deposited long ago when the sea covered the state and the coastline curved around the modern-day Lake Wales Ridge as much as 60 miles inland. The Hawthorn Formation extends up the Atlantic Coast to North Carolina.

Bone Valley is a window to Florida's prehistoric past, when massive sharks and whales plied the waters, sharing the stage with land animals like the three-toed horse and giant sloth that are believed to have made the trek to North America from Asia across the Bering Strait land bridge when sea levels were lower.

MINES

Subject To Reclamation

- Mosaic
- CF Industries Inc.
- US Agricultural Chemicals
- Estech Inc.
- MobilExxon
- Agrifos LLC
- Clear Springs Land Dev.
- Mineable Limit
- Gypsum Stacks
- Pending Mines
- Potential Future Mines



The above map includes lands mined for phosphate since 1975, subject to mandatory reclamation. Reclamation of lands mined prior to 1975 (not included here) is voluntary. Although several companies are referenced in the legend, only three phosphate mining companies remain in Florida: Mosaic, CF Industries, and PCS Phosphates, located in northern Hamilton County. Only a few potential future mines are identified. In almost all cases, wherever a gypsum stack is noted, there is a fertilizer processing plant.