

Maps 19-20

Date 10/11/19

Permanent Change: Yes

"FTA and the USFS sponsor free bear canister rental on the Ocala National Forest"

Florida Trail users can now rent bear canisters at no cost for overnight trips along the trail. There are currently twenty bear canisters at the Buck N' Bass Sports Center in Salt Springs that are ready for use. The Buck N' Bass is a very friendly place that welcomes hikers and is proud to participate in this program. This program is a direct response to negative encounters between FT users and black bears in the Juniper Prairie Wilderness. With proper Leave No Trace camping techniques, including the safe storage of food, these instances can be stopped. The safety of trail users and wildlife is a top priority.

Canisters are available on a first come first serve basis by calling (352) 685-0200. A fully refundable cash or check deposit is required at the time of rental.

In the next few months additional canisters will be available at the Juniper Springs Recreation Area.

