

LAX
2019

LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE EXPO

Welcome

Chad Allison

Program Manager
Central Florida Regional Planning Council



Extension Services

Taylor Davis

UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)



Cost-share and Technical Assistance

Carlos Torres & Diana Rodriguez

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



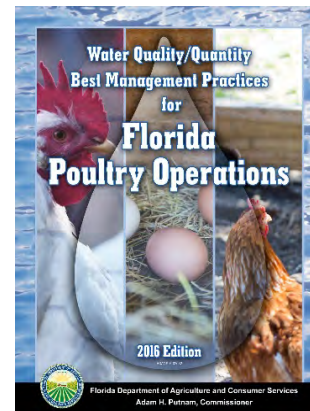
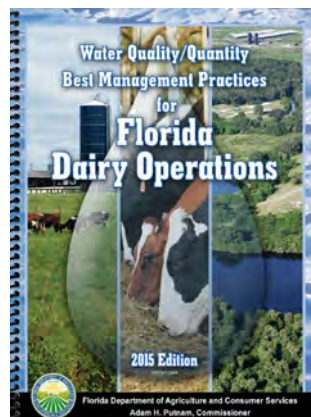
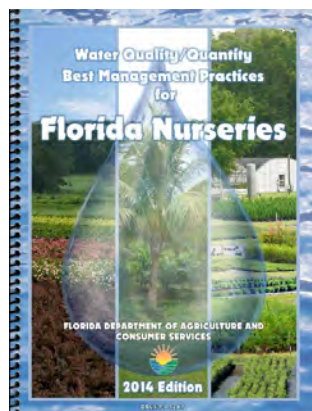
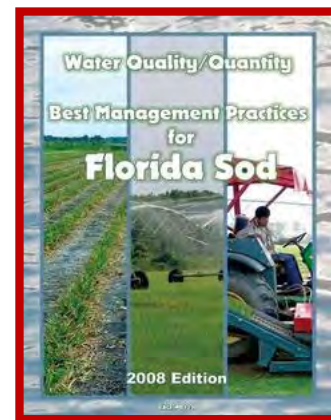
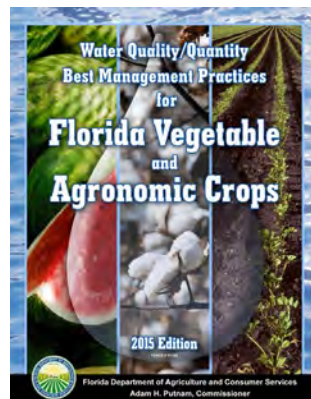
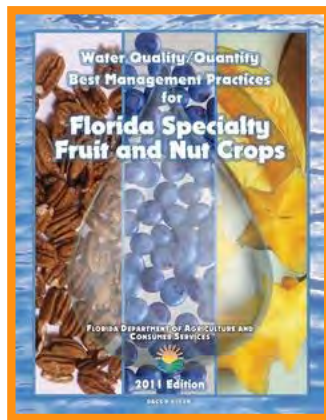
Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Agricultural Water Policy**

**Vanessa Bessey
Environmental Administrator**



BMP Manuals



Practice Categories:

- Nutrient Management
- Irrigation Management
- Water Resource Protection



How Do BMPs Work/Help The Environment?

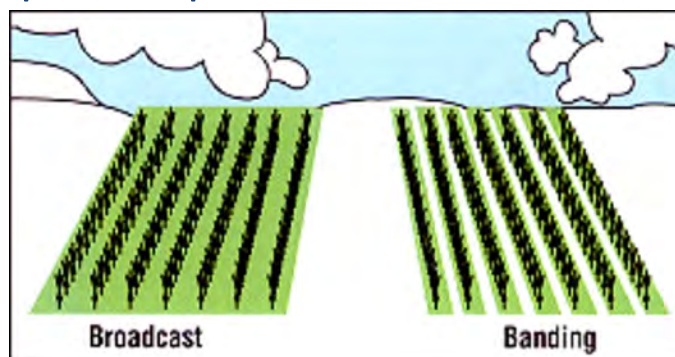
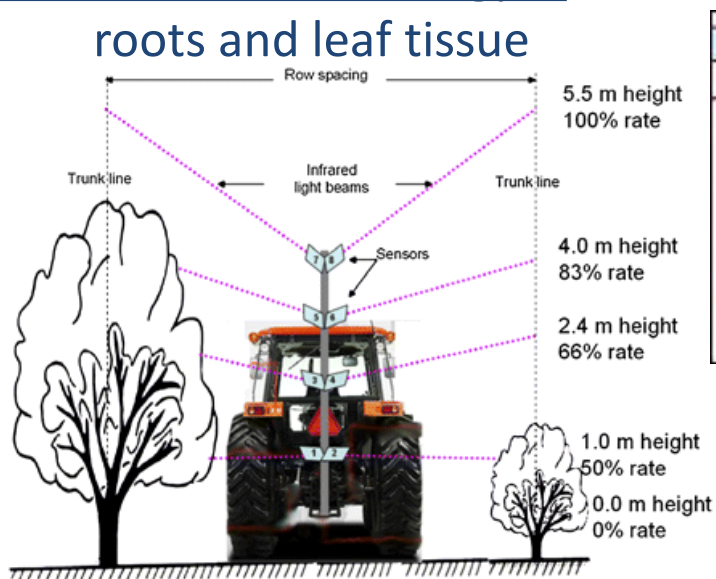
- Improve Water Quality by reducing nutrients – specifically N and P
- Conserve Water by improving irrigation efficiencies and/or reducing groundwater usage
- Protect Water Resources by reducing or preventing discharges of water and sediments



Examples of BMPs and Impacts

Nutrient Management

- Precision Fertilization – Multiple technologies such as soil sampling on a grid or precision application equipment – reduces fertilizer inputs as much as 35%
- Variable Rate Technology – Allows precise placement of nutrients to roots and leaf tissue



Examples of BMPs and Impacts

Irrigation Management

- Soil Moisture Probes – Reduces fertilizer and water usage by up to 50%, provides tracking of fertilizer through soil column
- Precision Irrigation – Allows placement of water close to the plant, reduces evaporation, individual valves may be guided by soil moisture probes – reduces groundwater withdrawals up to 40%



Examples of BMPs and Impacts

Water Resource Protection

- Surface Water Control Structures



FDACS BMP Cost Share Program

Leveraging \$\$ is Key

- By definition, BMPs must be cost-effective (economically feasible)
- FDACS, NRCS, SWCDs and WMDs have worked well together to deliver cost-share



FDACS BMP Cost Share Program

Cost Share Eligibility

- Must be enrolled in the FDACS BMP Program and be implementing applicable BMPs
- Projects must be approved, in writing, by FDACS BEFORE work begins
- Projects represent opportunities to advance water quality or water conservation practices
- Projects improve nutrient management, irrigation management, or protect sensitive water features



FDACS BMP Cost Share Program

Cost Share Details

- Cost share delivered on a first-come, first-served basis
- Reimbursement program
- Requires 2 written quotes for projects more than \$25,000 (one written quote required for all others)
- Most practices are reimbursed at a rate not to exceed 75% of the cost (varies by region)
- **Must work with FDACS staff BEFORE beginning a project**



Contact us at...

www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy

or

www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com





Wildland Restoration International

Ryan Kennelly

ryan.kennelly@wildlandrestoration.org

(352) 373-0550 (office)

(224) 402-1881 (cell)

Wildland Restoration International

- Wildland Restoration International is a nonprofit conservation organization.
- WRI helps the world manage wildland fire by safely applying more prescribed fire.
- WRI staff provide professional support to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners in the form of dedicated prescribed burn teams and expert training delivery.
 - Since 2013, WRI has hosted trainings, and provided staff and equipment in 11 US states and The Bahamas.



WRI in Florida:

- Since 2015 we have supported burning 225,000+ acres.
- We currently have 2 year-round Ecosystem Restoration Teams, each with a T6 Brush Truck and 2 UTV's with water tanks.
 - Gainesville
 - Apopka



WRI: Funding

Donations: monetary or material gifts that help support aspects of our work not funded by grants and contracts, such as staff training and equipment acquisition.

Private contracts: agreements between WRI and another entity for WRI to provide specific services at a specific location within a fixed period of time.

Grants: funds awarded to WRI by a specific party to be used for a specific purpose under unique conditions.

- Current Grants:
 - US Endowment/NRCS
 - NFWF



US Endowment for Forestry & Communities Grant:

Associated with Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP landowner cost share program

Purpose:

- Reach out to landowners receiving EQIP funding to provide assistance meeting contract deadlines and reduce backlogged burn acreage.
- Help increase confidence and competence in landowners to burn on their own to prevent future backlogged burn acreage.
 - Encourage formation of PBAs (Prescribed Burn Associations)
 - Host Workshops for landowners to learn more about the safe application of fire to their land.



US Endowment/NRCS Successes

This Season:

- 9 Rx burns
- 18 Burn Plans
- 2 PBA Meetings
- 2 upcoming Learn & Burn Workshops



Burn and Learn Workshop: Controlled Burning

Hands-on training for private land owners

Location: Forever Florida 4755 N. Kenansville Road, St. Cloud, Florida

**New
Dates:
June 29,
30, July 1**

- ~~Sunday June 1 8am – 4pm~~
- ~~Sunday June 2 8am – 4pm~~
- ~~Monday June 3 8am – 4pm~~

Come for one day, two, or all three days!

The priority is to increase your skills and confidence by burning together each day (weather permitting). Safe and effective techniques will be demonstrated by seasoned instructors.

After the burn, we will hold discussions on relevant topics, such as

- Where to connect with additional private landowner burners, including Prescribed Burn Associations;
- Where to get funding assistance;
- How to get planning assistance and mentoring;
- Common and affordable burning tools and equipment;
- FL state rules that protect and guide property owners to safely burn;
- How to become a FL Certified Burner;
- Solutions to challenges faced by private landowners and managers;
- How to get help with your prescribed burning;
- Your questions.

Registration Fee: \$12 per day. Lunch will be provided.

Register on-line at: <http://wildlandrestoration.org/burn-learn-workshop/>

Or call: 781-361-9711



Questions?

Contact: Ryan Kennelly
ryan.kennelly@wildlandrestoration.org
(352) 373-0550

Flagler County Learn & Burn

Hands-on prescribed fire training for private landowners

Friday June 14 & Saturday June 15, 8 am

(Come for both days or just one)

Location: Double C Ranch, Co Rd 305 (just north of 7710), Bunnell, FL

We **will** conduct controlled burns from start to finish, weather permitting.

Highly experienced burners **will** provide training.

Meet other landowners interested in burning and possibly helping each other burn in the future.

Learn about ways to get help planning your burns, getting your burning done, and cost-share programs for burning.

Sign up here:

<http://wildlandrestoration.org/flagler-county-learn-burn/>

Or by contacting **Ryan Kennelly at (352) 373-0550**

Cost: \$12 per day to cover lunch.

Please wear leather boots and cotton clothing (jeans, cotton shirt, flannel, etc.).

Let us know if you plan to bring your own tools or equipment.



Eligibility for Endowment Project:

- East/South of Hamilton, Columbia, Gilchrist, and Dixie Counties
- Active or recently expired EQIP contract with Prescribed Fire practice
- Priority is Longleaf pine ecosystems with good gopher tortoise habitat potential.

US Endowment Project Scope

- Assist landowners with fire prep.
- Assist landowners with burn plan writing.
- Provide experienced crew and equipment for your burn.
- Request authorization for a burn on your property and lead the burn from start to finish.
- Additionally: work with you and your neighbors to move towards conducting the burns yourselves with workshops or customized trainings.
- Cost: we invoice you what NRCS is reimbursing you.



National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant:

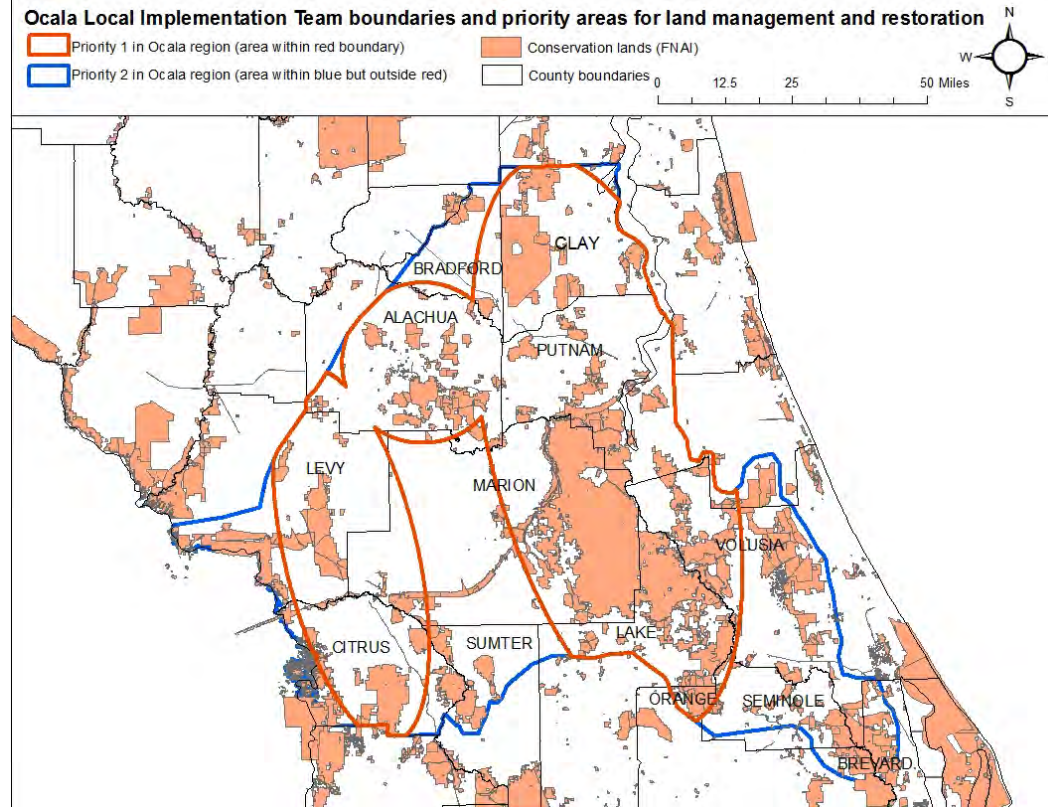
Purpose:

- To assist with land management activities within longleaf pine habitat within the Ocala Local Implementation Team region.
- WRI is available to assist private land managers with restoration activities including:
 - Hardwood Reduction
 - Native understory establishment
 - Invasive species removal
 - Prescribed fire prep
 - Prescribed fire assistance
 - Lead a prescribed fire for you



Eligibility for NFWF Assistance:

- Current Ocala LIT Boundary Map
- Must have longleaf habitat as a goal for the property
- Cannot assist with any of the additional restoration work if you are receiving any other federal funding for that work (NRCS?)
- We hope to be receiving an additional NFWF Grant for the same types of work central/south Florida this Fall.



NFWF Private Landowner Assistance Successes:

- We have assisted 10 different *private landowners* in the following ways:
 - 11 acres of Longleaf pine seedlings planted.
 - 60+ acres of hardwood treatment.
 - Assisted with over 250 acres of prescribed fire.
 - Led burns totaling 127 acres.



Contact Us:

Ryan Kennelly

ryan.kennelly@wildlandrestoration.org

(352) 373-0550 (office)

(224) 402-1881 (cell)

I will be available to talk throughout the lunch networking break.



BREAK

Guests are encouraged to visit exhibitors



Landowner Assistance Program

Conservation
Partnerships on Private
Lands



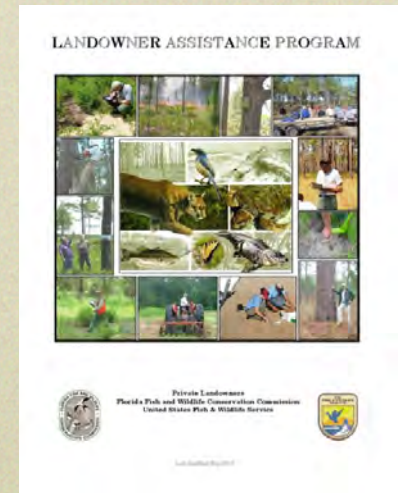
Joe Sage
Biological Scientist IV
Office of Conservation Planning Services
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

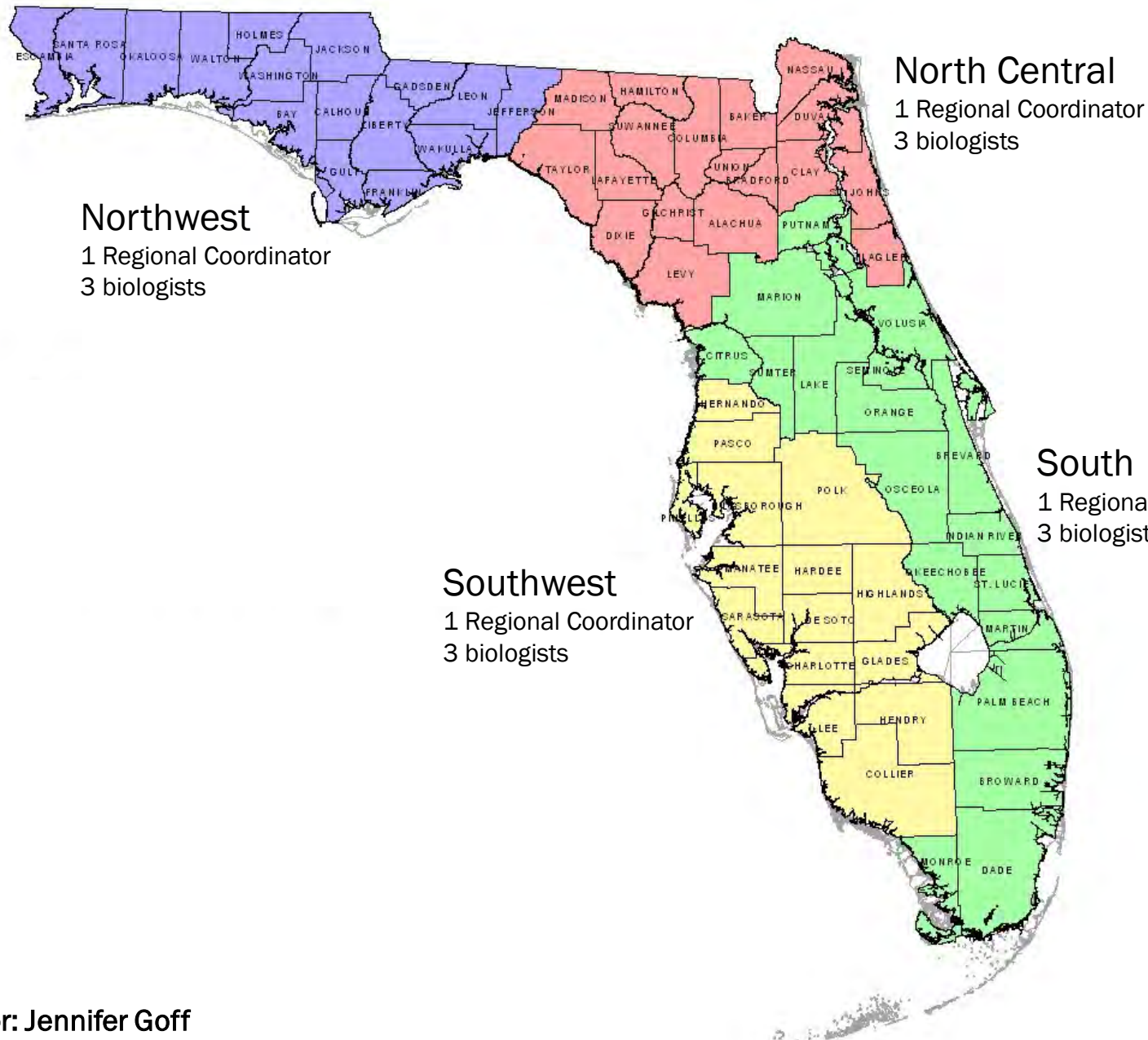




FWC's Landowner Assistance Program

“Providing science-based resource management recommendations and financial assistance to conserve and enhance Florida’s habitat resources.”





Office Director: Jennifer Goff
Landowner Assistance Program Administrator: Anthony Grossman

Natural resource agency partnerships



Landowner Assistance Programs and Activities

| Technical Assistance | |
|--|--|
| General Technical Assistance <i>FWC</i> | Florida Wildlife Conservation Guide <i>Multi-agency</i> |
| Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA) <i>NRCS</i> | Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) <i>FFS</i> |

| Financial Assistance | |
|--|--|
| Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) <i>FWC</i> | Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) <i>NRCS</i> |
| Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFW) <i>USFWS</i> | Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) <i>NRCS</i> |

| Education and Outreach | |
|--|--|
| Habitat Management Workshops and Field Days <i>Multi-agency</i> | Florida Forest Steward Newsletter <i>Multi-agency</i> |
| Wildlife Habitat Management Calendar <i>FWC</i> | EDIS - UF/IFAS Extension <i>Multi-agency</i> |

| Easement Programs | |
|--|---|
| Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) <i>NRCS</i> | Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) <i>NRCS</i> |
| FWC Gopher Tortoise Recipient Sites <i>FWC</i> | Land Trusts, Mitigation Banks, Florida Forever, etc. <i>Multi-agency</i> |

| Other Opportunities | |
|--|--|
| Ecosystem Restoration Partnership Teams <i>Multi-agency</i> | Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) <i>NRCS</i> |
| Cooperative Conservation Blueprint <i>Multi-agency</i> | Safe Harbor Program <i>USFWS</i> |



FARM BILL PROGRAMS

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Working Lands for Wildlife

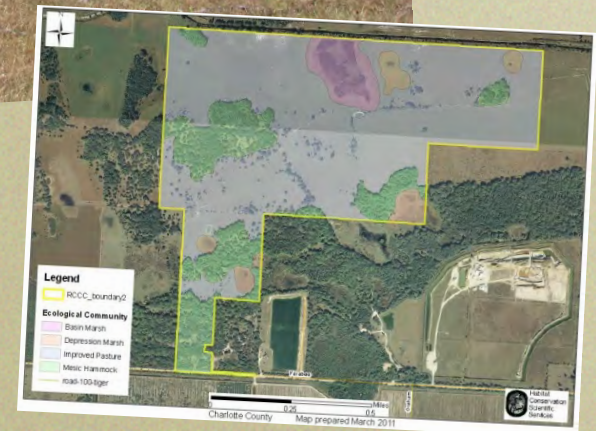
WHIP: Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (**now dead**)

CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program

RCPP: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

WRP/WRE: Wetlands Reserve Program

Comprehensive Conservation Planning



Implementing the Plan:





Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Landowner Assistance Program

<http://myfwc.com/conservation/special-initiatives/lap/>



Florida Division of Forestry Forest Stewardship Program

http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/cfa_steward_index.html



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife

<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/partners/>



Natural Resources Conservation Service WHIP: Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

<http://www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/>



Wildlife Habitat Management Private Landowner Perspective

Mr. Palmer Simmons

Simmons Grove & Cattle Co.



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program In Florida

State Coordinator

Joseph Prenger
7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200
Jacksonville, FL 32256
Phone: (904) 731-3096
Fax: (904) 731-3045
E-mail: joseph_prenger@fws.gov

North Florida

Jo Emanuel
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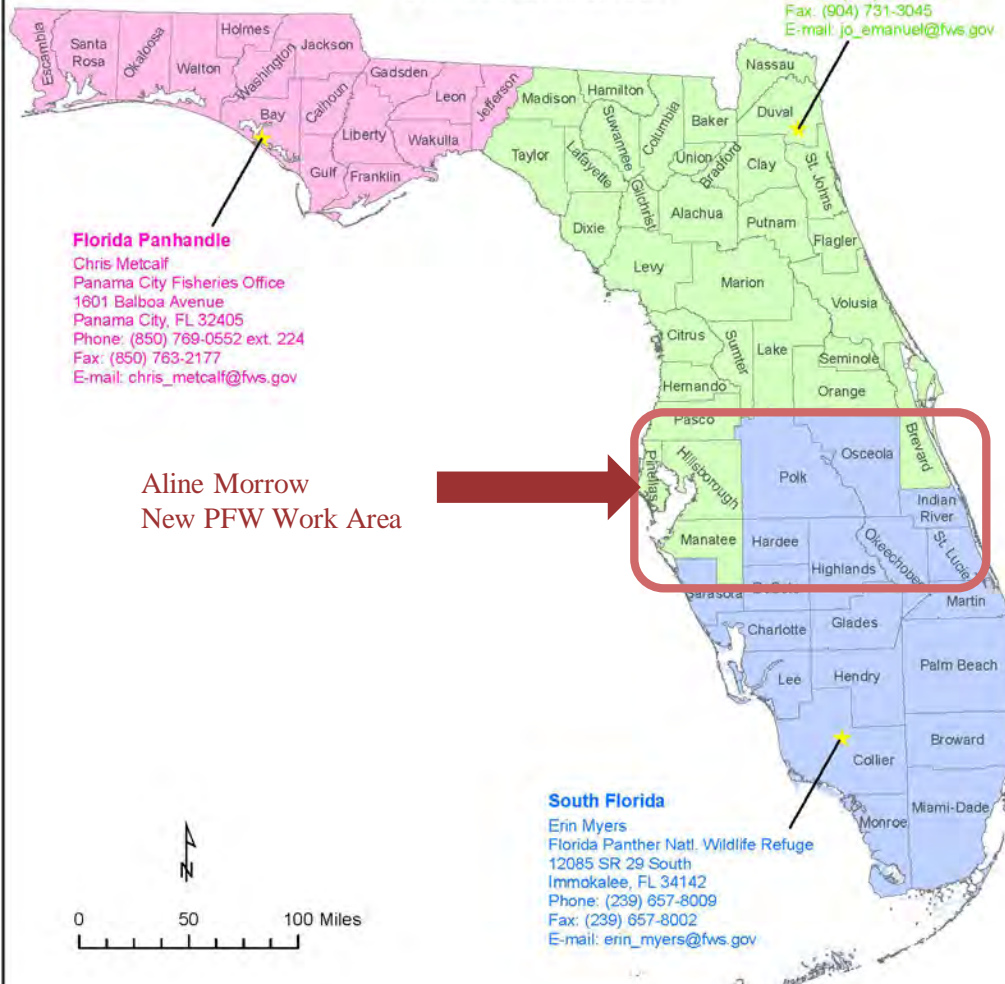
Florida Panhandle

Chris Metcalf
Panama City Fisheries Office
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405
Phone: (850) 769-0552 ext. 224
Fax: (850) 763-2177
E-mail: chris_metcalf@fws.gov

Aline Morrow
New PFW Work Area

South Florida

Erin Myers
Florida Panther Natl. Wildlife Refuge
12085 SR 29 South
Immokalee, FL 34142
Phone: (239) 657-8009
Fax: (239) 657-8002
E-mail: erin_myers@fws.gov



Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program

- Goal: avoid listing **petitioned species** and delist or down-list federally-listed Threatened & Endangered species
- Voluntary, proposals accepted year round
- Any non-federal or non-state lands.
- Habitat restoration
 - Technical and financial assistance for habitat restoration
 - Funding is **not available** to purchase land-use rights (e.g., easements, pay rent, etc.).
 - Cannot directly fund prescribed fire unless by federally certified burn boss (**may change in near future**)
 - Supporting practices for Rx fire (e.g. firebreaks), hardwood/understory removal, herbicide, etc.
- Minimum 10-year agreement.
- 50/50 cost-share, either monetary or in-kind.



Landowner Assurances

● PFW Landowner Agreements

- No requirement to maintain habitat past 10 years
- Landowner can opt out of agreement by reimbursing costs back to the Service on a pro-rated basis.
- Reasonable access (by appointment) to monitor project implementation.

● Safe Harbor Agreement

- Voluntary
- Any non-Federal landowner
- Project must provide a net conservation benefit for species recovery
- No additional requirements beyond those stated in SHA
- Establish baseline population or habitat conditions at start
- Flexibility to return to baseline



More Information

- ◉ <https://www.fws.gov/northflorida/Partners/>

- Project ranking criteria
- Focal areas and species
- Sample landowner agreement

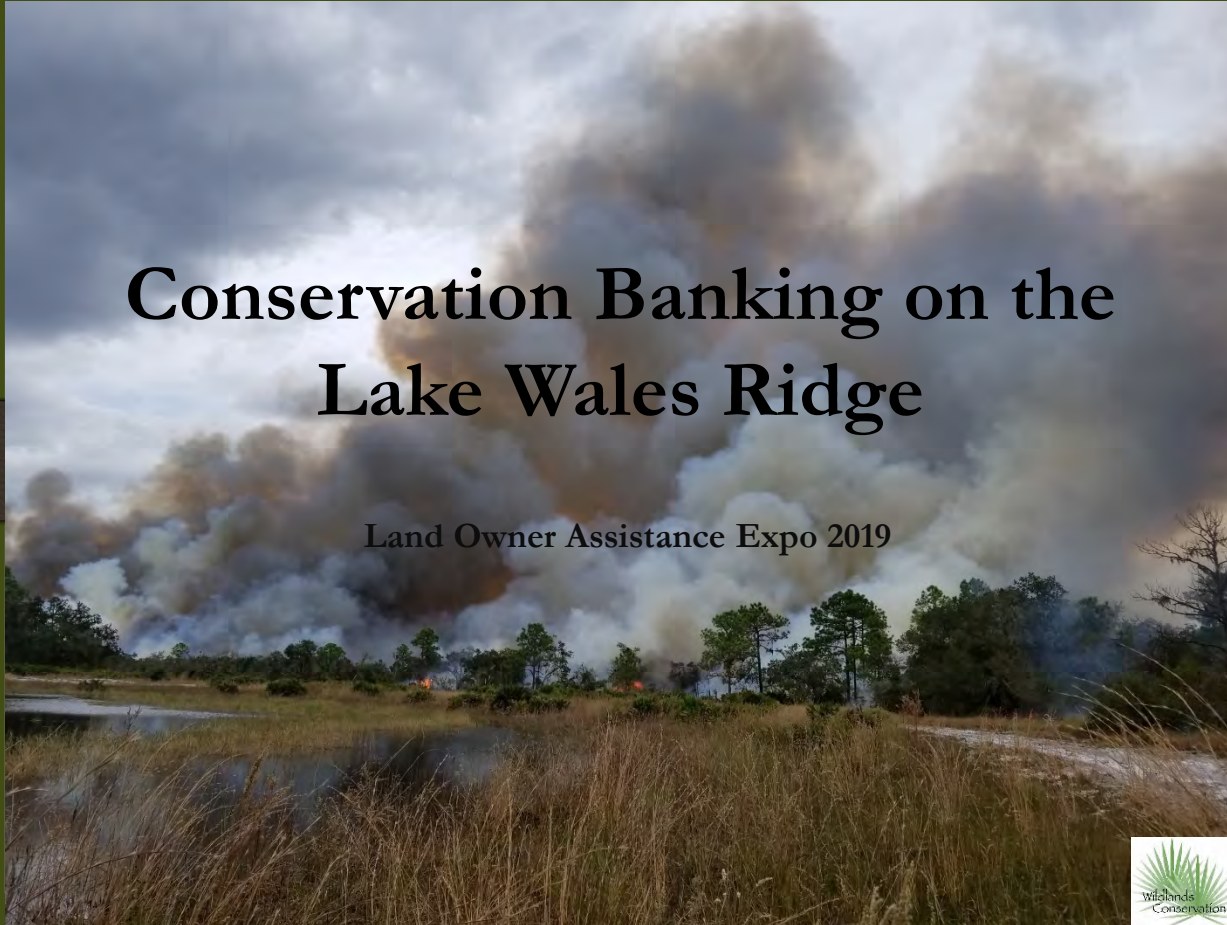
- ◉ Contact

- Joseph Prenger
- 904-731-3096
- Joseph_Prenger@fws.gov



Conservation Banking on the Lake Wales Ridge

Land Owner Assistance Expo 2019



What is a Conservation Bank?

- Like Wetland Banking for Listed Species.
- Only works for certain species
- Sand skinks (*Plestiodon reynoldsi*)/bluetail mole skink (*Eumeces egregius lividus*) on Lake Wales Ridge
- Florida scrub-jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)
- Large blocks of land set aside and managed perpetually for the “target” species.

Part of the Conservation Solution

Wetland Banking and Conservation Banking provides a mechanism which enables us to conserve, restore, and enhance large blocks of land – with the commitment of perpetual ecological management – and perpetual funding.



Skink Conservation Banks

Sand Skink



By USGS - USGS, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6886277>

Bluetail Mole Skink



Photo Caption: Bluetail Mole Skink Credit: USFWS

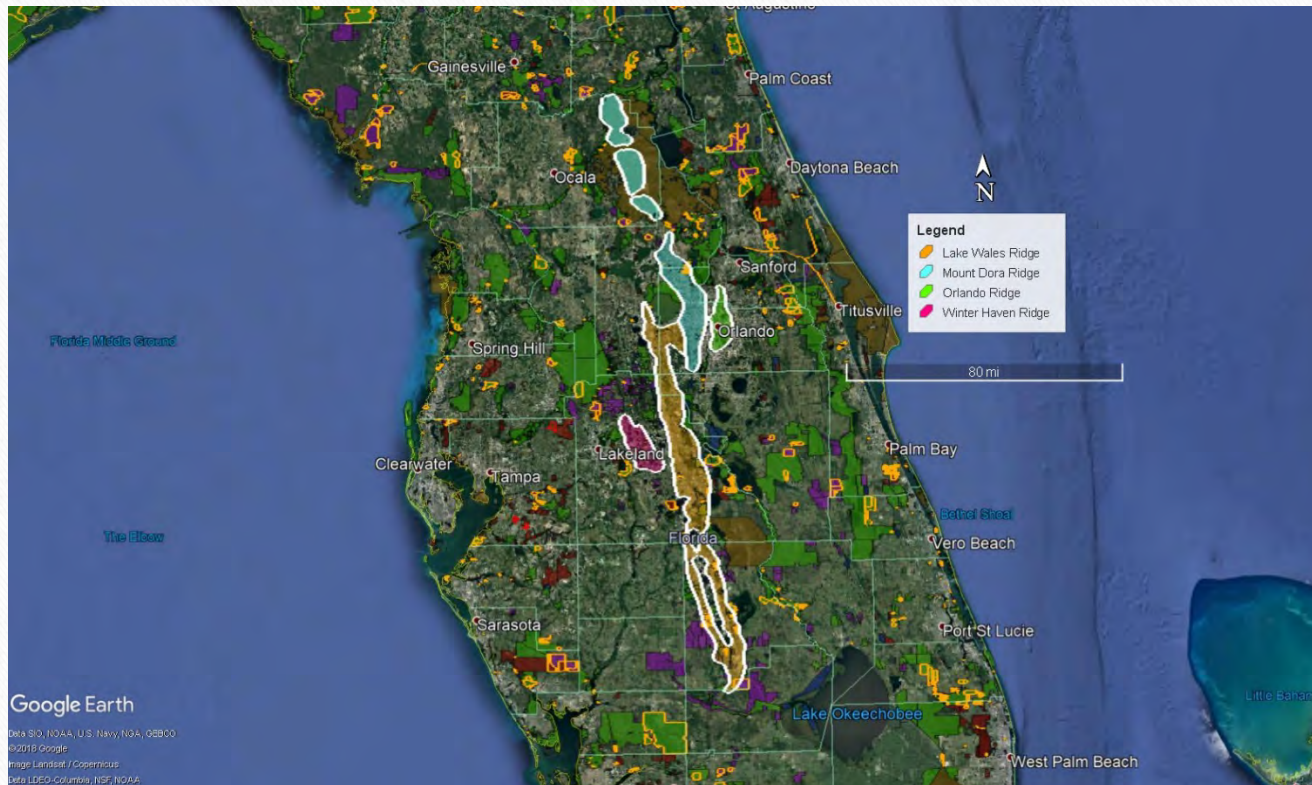
Sand skink Sign



Scrub-jay Conservation Banks



Patrick J. Blake, Cornell University

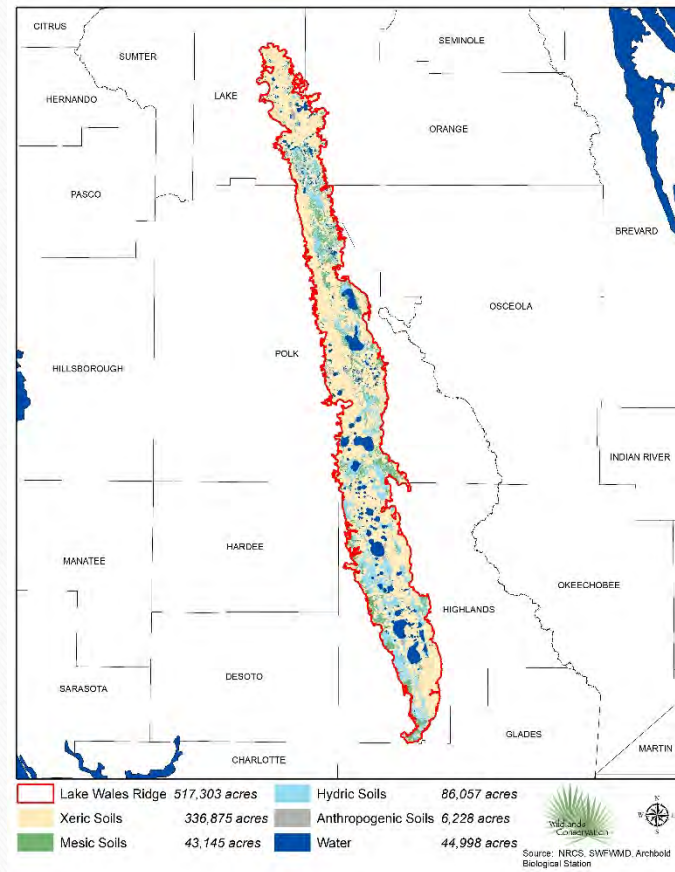


RIDGES OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Pre-settlement Habitats

Xeric Soil Native Habitats

- Scrub
- Scrubby Flatwoods
- Sandhill
- Turkey Oak Barrens
- Xeric Hammock





Central FL Scrub



Central FL Sandhill



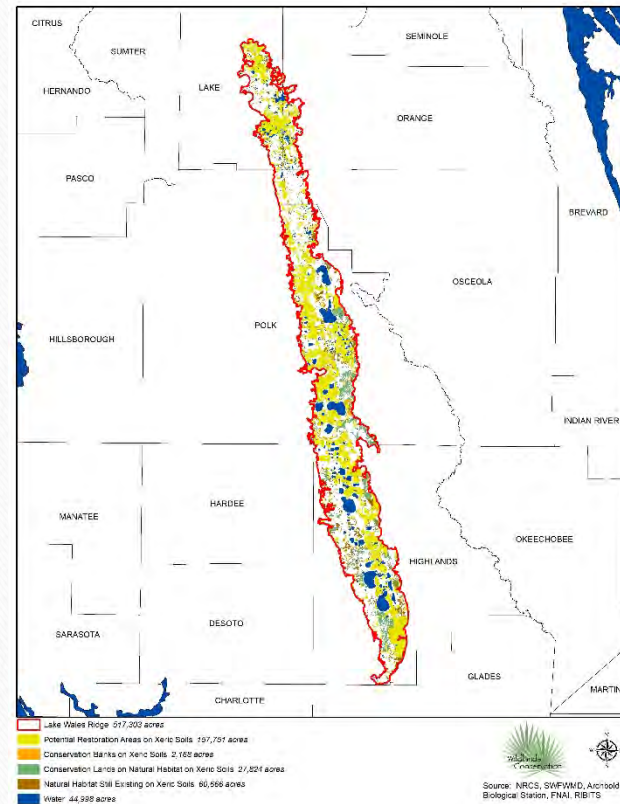
Scrubby Flatwoods



Xeric Hammock

Restoration Potential

- Citrus Groves
- Improved Pasture
- Shrub and Brushland
- Woodland Pasture



Xeric (skink) soils w/ are in use as grove and pasture



Improved Pasture



Citrus Groves

Is your property a good candidate for a Conservation Bank?

- Greater than 50 acres of xeric “skink” soils, skink or scrub-jays present, and dominated by native habitat
 - Skink soils: Apopka, Aredondo, Archbold, Astatula, Candler, Daytona, Duette, Florahome, Gainesville, Hague, Kendrick Lake, Millhopper, Orsino, Paola, Pomello, Satellite, St. Lucie, Tavares, Zuber
- Greater than 100 acres of Xeric “Skink” soils in pasture or citrus adjacent to conservation lands. Sand skink are present.
- Greater than 200 acres of Xeric “Skink” Soils in Pasture or Citrus on the Lake Wales Ridge. Sand skink are present.

Questions





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ONLYMOSO BAMBOO

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A NEW SUSTAINABLE AND PROFITABLE CROP IN THE UNITED STATES

Bamboo





OUR COMPANY

Parent Company OnlyMoso ITALY



OnlyMoso
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OnlyMoso®
Via dell'Industria, 16
61010 Loc. **Pirano** – **Tavullia (PU)**
[www. onlymoso.it](http://www.onlymoso.it)



- ▶ Started planting in 2014
- ▶ 1st partial harvest in Spring 2018
- ▶ 6,000 Acres planted in Italy
- ▶ Over 1,000 Farmer Partners

Parent Company OnlyMoso ITALY



OnlyMoso Commercial Division

- ✓ Over 30 different product offerings
- ✓ 5,000 Store Fronts
- ✓ OnlyMoso Italy has already purchased all shoots for the next two years' worth of harvests in Italy



- ▶ **Opened for Business May 2016**
- ▶ **First Plants in the ground November 2016**
- ▶ **OnlyMoso Harvest Opened November 2017**



**Over 120 Farmer Partners Nationwide
&
Over 600 Acres Planted**



Commercial Division

OnlyMoso® 
YOUR GREEN MINE



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Commercial Division



Only Moso
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OnlyMoso®
YOUR GREEN MINE 





WHY BAMBOO?



Absorbs up to 5 times more **CARBON DIOXIDE** than any other plant or tree



RELEASES 35% more OXYGEN than any other plant or tree



ENDLESS RESOURCE – RENEWABLE - One-time planting will produce for 60 to 80+ years



Strong as steel, very flexible. Bamboo fiber could be used as a more sustainable and far cheaper alternative to steel on construction sites.



Windbreaks made from bamboos are more suitable for this purpose as they reduce the wind force rather than attempt to stop it.



Considered a HARDWOOD, not to be compared to Soft Woods/Pine but rather to TEAK and MAHOGANY.



Eco Renewable and **SUSTAINABLE**. Bamboo is incredibly resilient and renewable, growing up to 3 feet a day and it can reach up to 80 feet tall. It's the strongest growing woody plant in earth.

Benefits of Bamboo Shoots

Organic  Facts

Aids in
weight loss

Reduces risk
of cancer

Strengthens
immune system

Helps improve
heart health

Useful in
curing snake and
scorpion bites

Effective
against respiratory
diseases



www.organicfacts.net



WHY COMMERCIAL BAMBOO?

**Bamboo is a \$60 billion
plus global industry and
growing**





**USA is the largest importer in the world of
bamboo products
(95% of its current consumption).**



To fill the current demand for shoots in the US we need to plant 26,000 acres of bamboo!!



Multiple Applications of Bamboo

Bamboo is an extraordinarily stable fiber with a wide variety of applications such as: food, textiles, flooring, constructions, biomass, paper, drinks, and many more.



SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP OF THE LAND

OXYGEN PRODUCTION AND CO₂ ABSORPTION

Only Moso bamboo has a high capacity to absorb carbon dioxide. A bamboo forest is able to capture 6.88 tons of Carbon Dioxide per acre per year, due to the large perennial leaf surface.



FINE DUST FILTER

The leaf mass of the OnlyMoso Bamboo is superior to other wood species because it creates a compact barrier that becomes a powerful filter for the subtle powder and pollutant substances.



WINDBREAKS

OnlyMoso Bamboo; with its thick and compact canopy, acts as an effective windproof barrier and protects the roadways from gusts that can create serious problems to vehicular transit.





REDUCTION OF HYDROGEOLOGICAL DISASTERS

The rhizomatous nature of the OnlyMoso Bamboo creates a combined and contained network of roots in the ground, even in the presence of slopes and/or steep terrain.



SOUND ABSORPTION

Due to the large leaves and the height of the trunks, OnlyMoso Bamboo absorbs sounds and noises generated by vehicular traffic in an optimal way compared to common synthetic and/or shrub-proof barriers.



QUICK GROWTH

The growth of OnlyMoso Bamboo is competitive compared to other types of green (hedges or trees). In 5/6 years it can reach height of 65/82 feet.



Why Partner with OnlyMoso USA?



**YOU CAN OWN A SUSTAINABLE AND
PROFITABLE FARMING BUSINESS WITH LOW
INVESTMENT AND HIGH RETURN.**



OnlyMoso®
YOUR GREEN MINE 

Earn Up to \$40,000/Acre Per Year



**ONE TIME
PURCHASE**

**ONE TIME
PLANTING**

**LOW
MAINTENANCE**

10 Year Renewable Guaranteed Crop Buyback Agreement

You Harvest and We Pick Up at Your Location





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4577 Nob Hill Rd, Suite 207, Sunrise, FL, 33351

Call 954.530.3385 / 305.399.5120

www.OnlyMoso.com

Diego.Cespedes@onlymososales.com

LUNCH & EXPLORE

Guests are encouraged to visit exhibitors

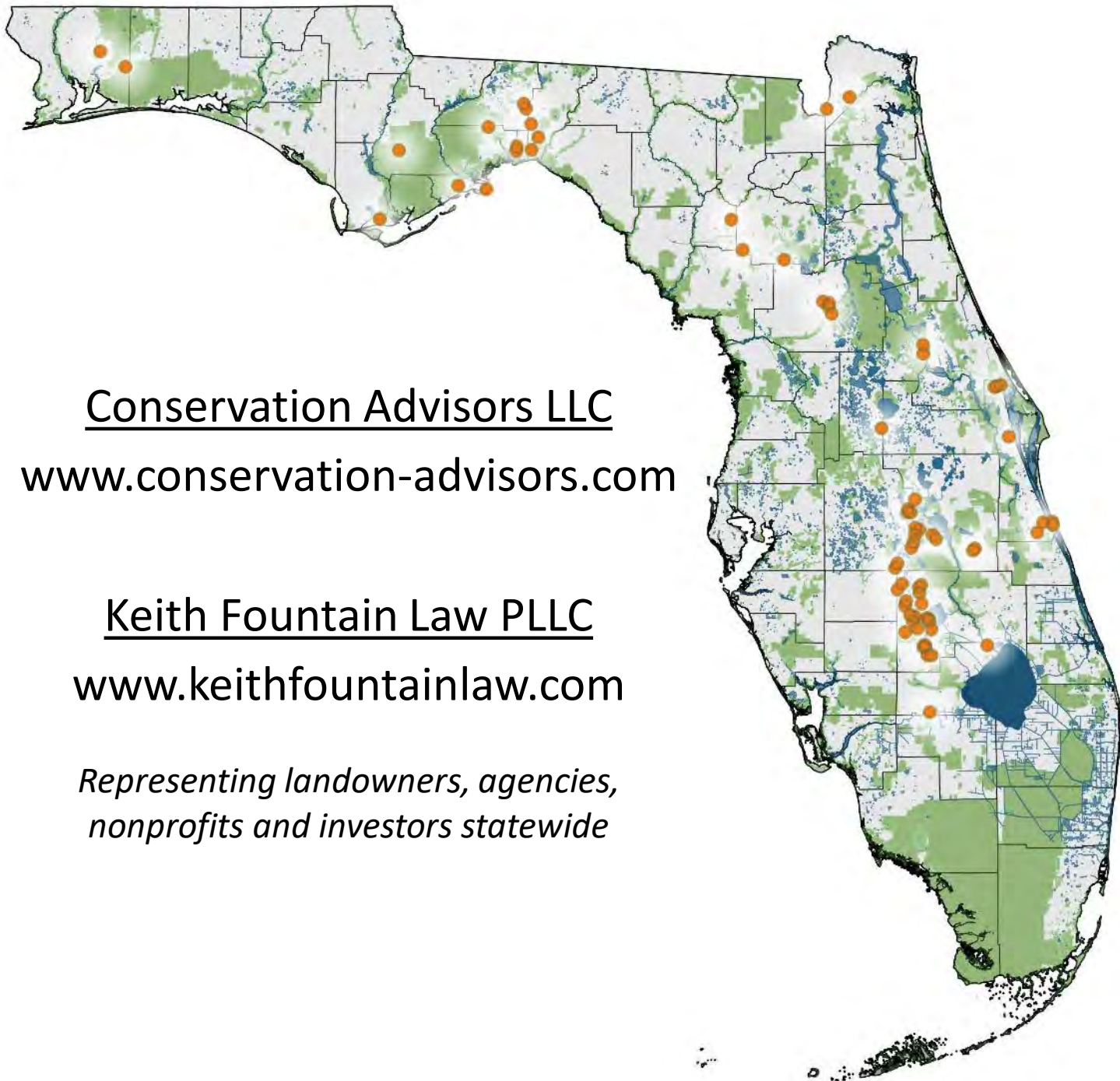


Conservation Easement Programs in Florida



© Carlton Ward

Presented by Conservation Advisors LLC, Keith Fountain Law PLLC
June 5, 2019



Conservation Advisors LLC

www.conservation-advisors.com

Keith Fountain Law PLLC

www.keithfountainlaw.com

*Representing landowners, agencies,
nonprofits and investors statewide*

Selecting an Easement Program

For Landowners:

Financial assistance to sustain agriculture operations
Expansion of agriculture operations
Estate / business succession planning
Income tax deduction
No development
Distrust of heirs
Legacy
Environmental stewardship



For Easement Purchasers:

Protect agricultural land
Protect natural, cultural, historical resources
Restore degraded lands
Protect specialized land uses (military)

Bundle of Rights



Industrial



Commercial



Mining



Retail Residential



Farming



Cattle



Timber



Passive Recreation

Easement Programs in Florida



Restrictions

- DACS Rural and Family Lands Protection Program
 - NRCS Agricultural Land Easement
 - Department of Defense REPI
 - Water management districts
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - FDEP Florida Forever Program
 - USFS Forest Legacy Program
 - NRCS Wetland Reserve Easement
-
- Local governments
 - Nonprofit organizations (land trusts)

General Easement Elements

- Statement of purposes (enabling statute/IRS)
- Duration
- Baseline document (or easement documentation report)
- Grantee right to monitor and enforce the easement
- Landowner can sell & mortgage property
- No public access
- Prohibited uses
 - Industrial, commercial, retail residential uses
 - Physical alteration, particularly hydrological
 - Construction of improvements
 - Landowner responsibility for nuisance exotic and invasive species
- Reserved rights
 - Recreation
 - Agriculture
 - Building envelopes

DACS Rural & Family Lands Program

The Program is designed to meet three needs:

1. Protect valuable agricultural lands threatened by conversion.
2. Create easement documents that work together with agricultural production to ensure sustainable agricultural practices and reasonable protection of the environment without interfering with agricultural operations in such a way that could put the continued economic viability of these operations at risk.
3. Protect natural resources, not as the primary purpose, but in conjunction with the economically viable agricultural operations.



NRCS Agricultural Land Easements

- Generally, RFLPP and ALE seek to maintain viable agricultural operations, particularly those threatened by transition to other land uses
- ALE is particularly interested in protecting lands with prime farming soils
- ALE is a grant program
- RFLPP funds up to 100% of easement value
- ALE funds up to 50% of easement value; 75% for significant grasslands



The ALE Easement

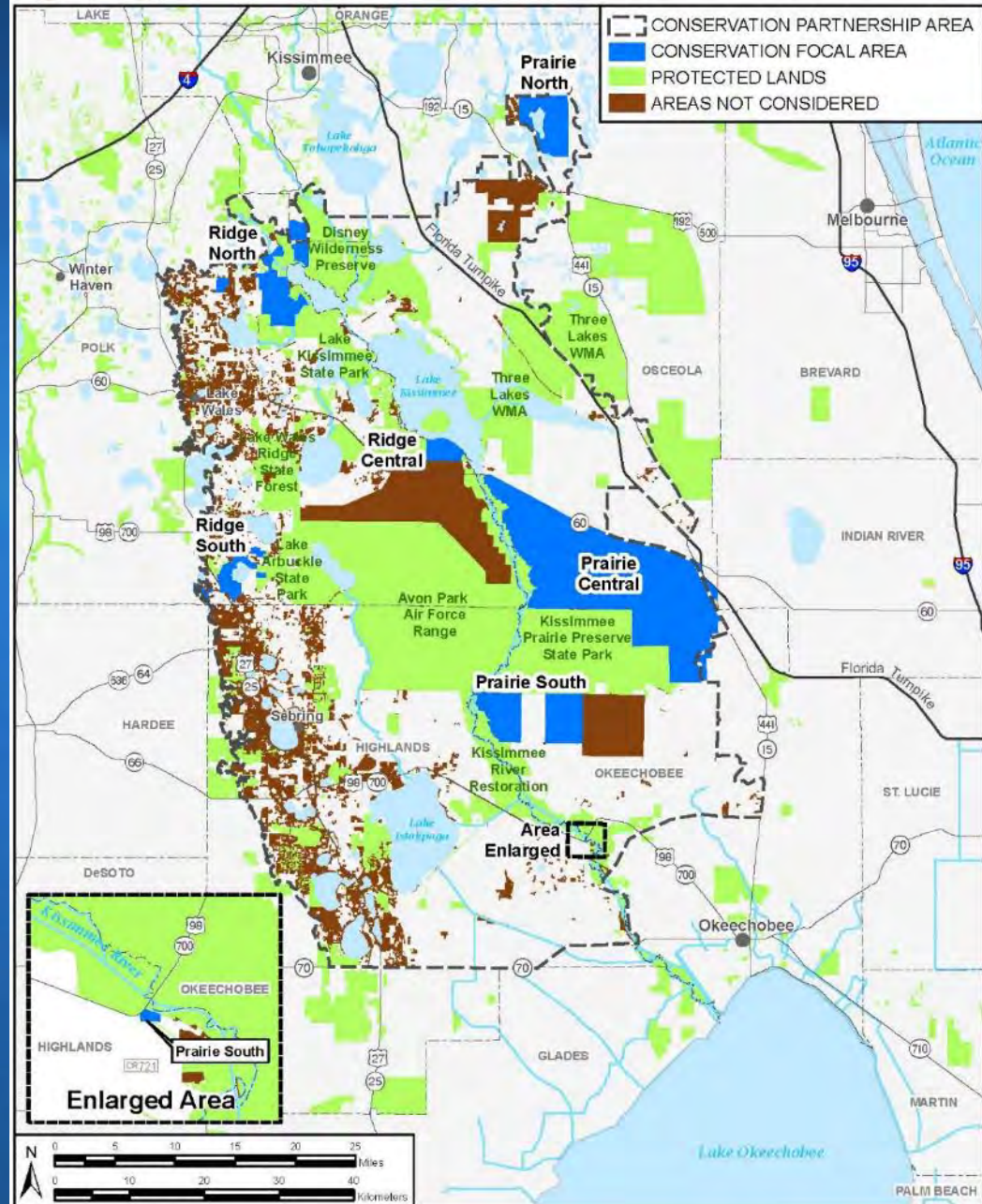
- Prohibits activities detrimental to soil conservation (commercial sod operations)
- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Grazing plan produced by NRCS
- Timber management plan produced by FFS
- Limited improvements for agriculture as allowed by the management plans
- 2% impervious surface limitation

Florida Forever / USFWS

Easements prioritizing the conservation of natural resources, but secondarily protecting our natural and cultural heritage



Everglades Headwaters Conservation Partnership
National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area



The Florida Forever & USFWS Easements

- Both fund up to 100% of easement value
- Limit commercial agriculture operations, generally agriculture intensity will be “locked in”
- Natural areas protected
- Transition of agricultural use carefully constrained
- Potentially more restrictive:
 - Hydrological alteration
 - Construction of personal or agricultural improvements
 - Fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides

The Florida Forever Easement

The removal, destruction, cutting, trimming, mowing, alteration or spraying with biocides of trees, shrubs or other natural vegetation, including but not limited to cypress trees, except as otherwise specifically provided in this Easement.

Forest Legacy Program

- Grant program funding up to 75% of value; cost share for 25%
- Maintain habitat and natural communities on the property
- Restrict conversion to other agricultural uses (75% must remain in forest land)
- Encourage sustainable timber harvesting
- Protect water, scenic and cultural resources



NRCS Wetland Reserve Easement

- Restores degraded wetlands by removing agricultural production
- Funding established by GARC
- Fully funds hydrological restoration
- Permits undeveloped recreational uses
- Generally prohibits agriculture but ...

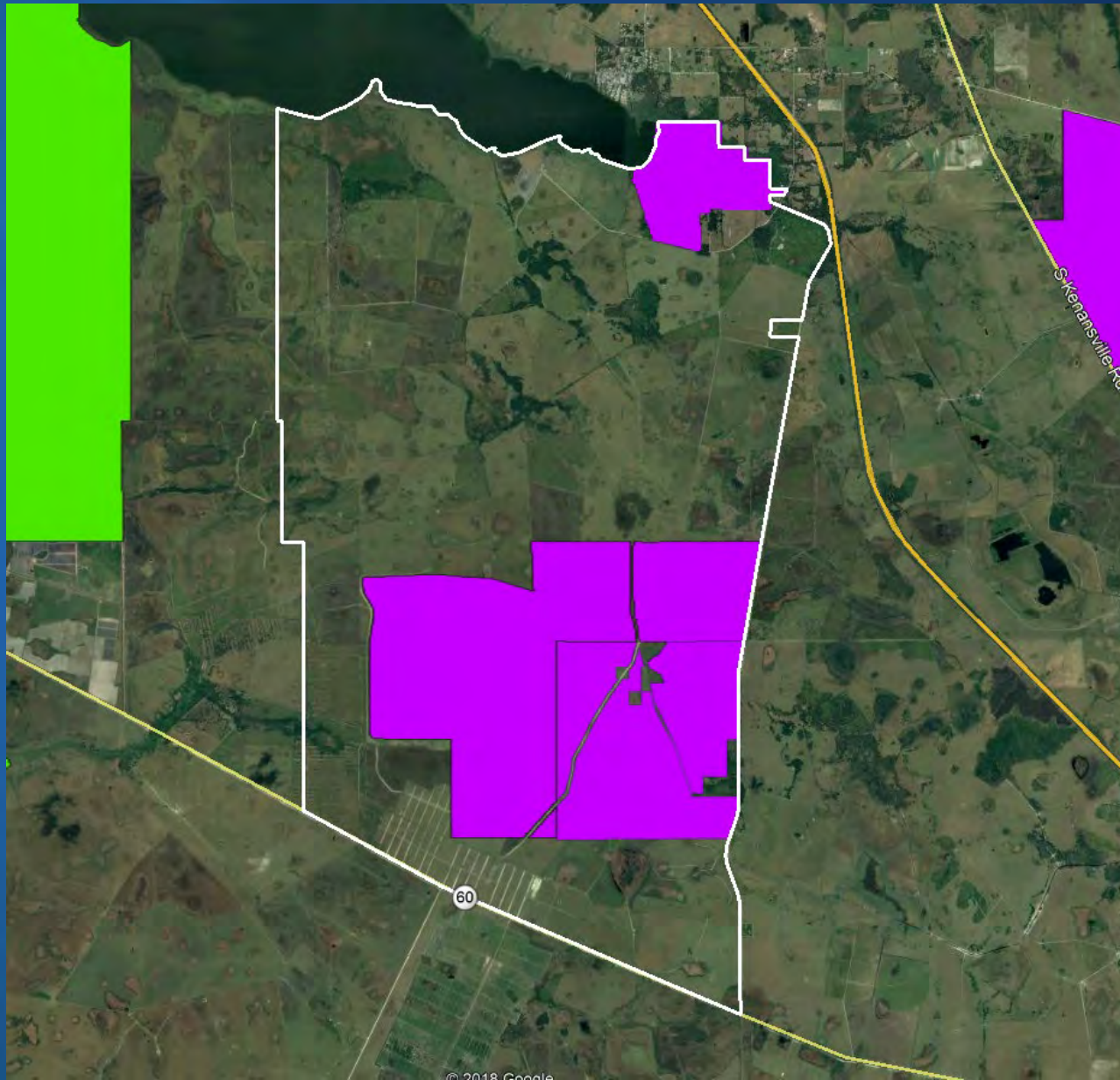


New Project Timelines

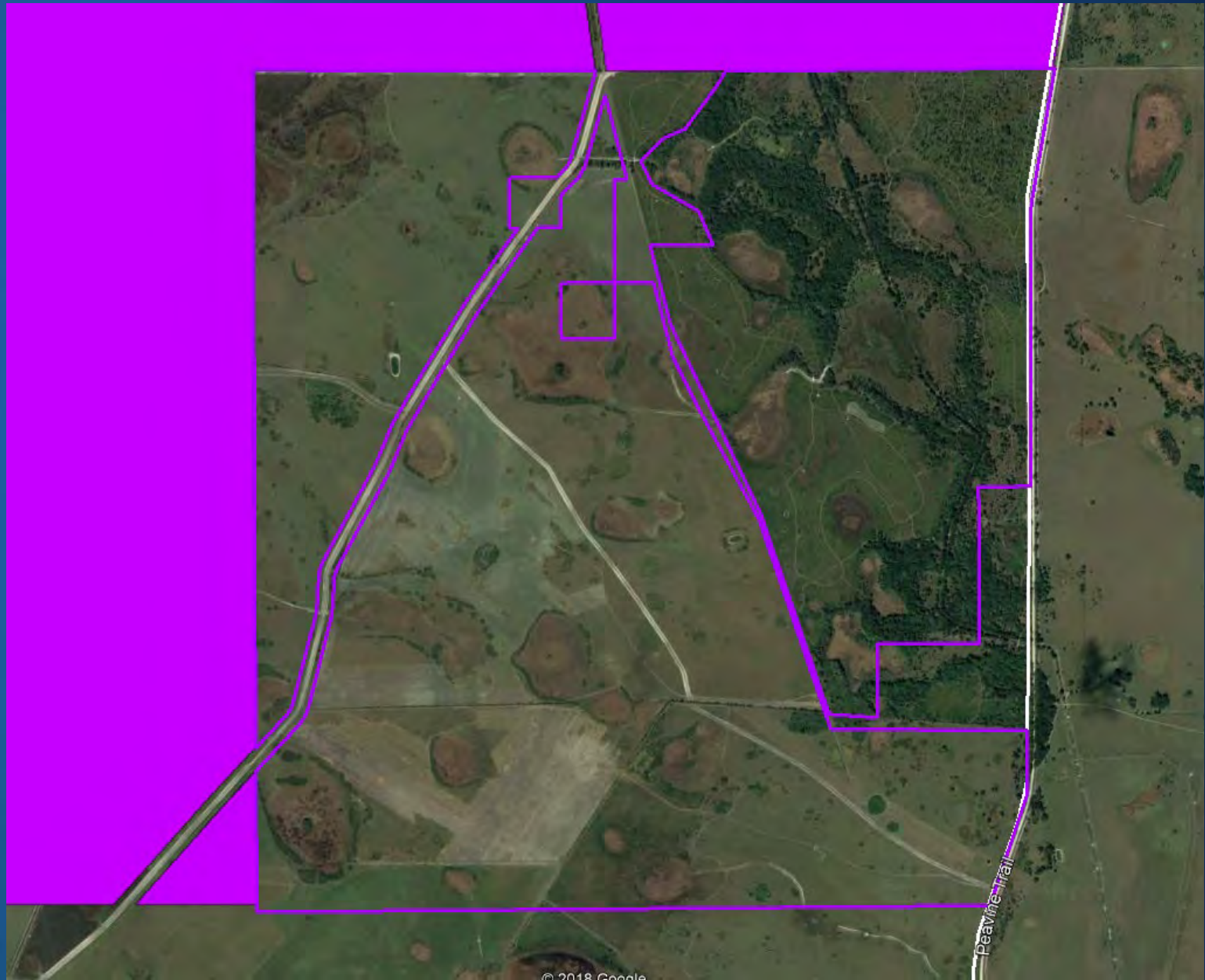
- RFLPP: As needed, last ranked in 2018
- NRCS ALE: Closed April
- NRCS WRE: Closed April
- Florida Forever: April 30, October 31
- USFWS: Open
- US Forest Legacy: ~October 1



Adams Ranch Lake Marian



Adams Ranch Lake Marian



Questions?

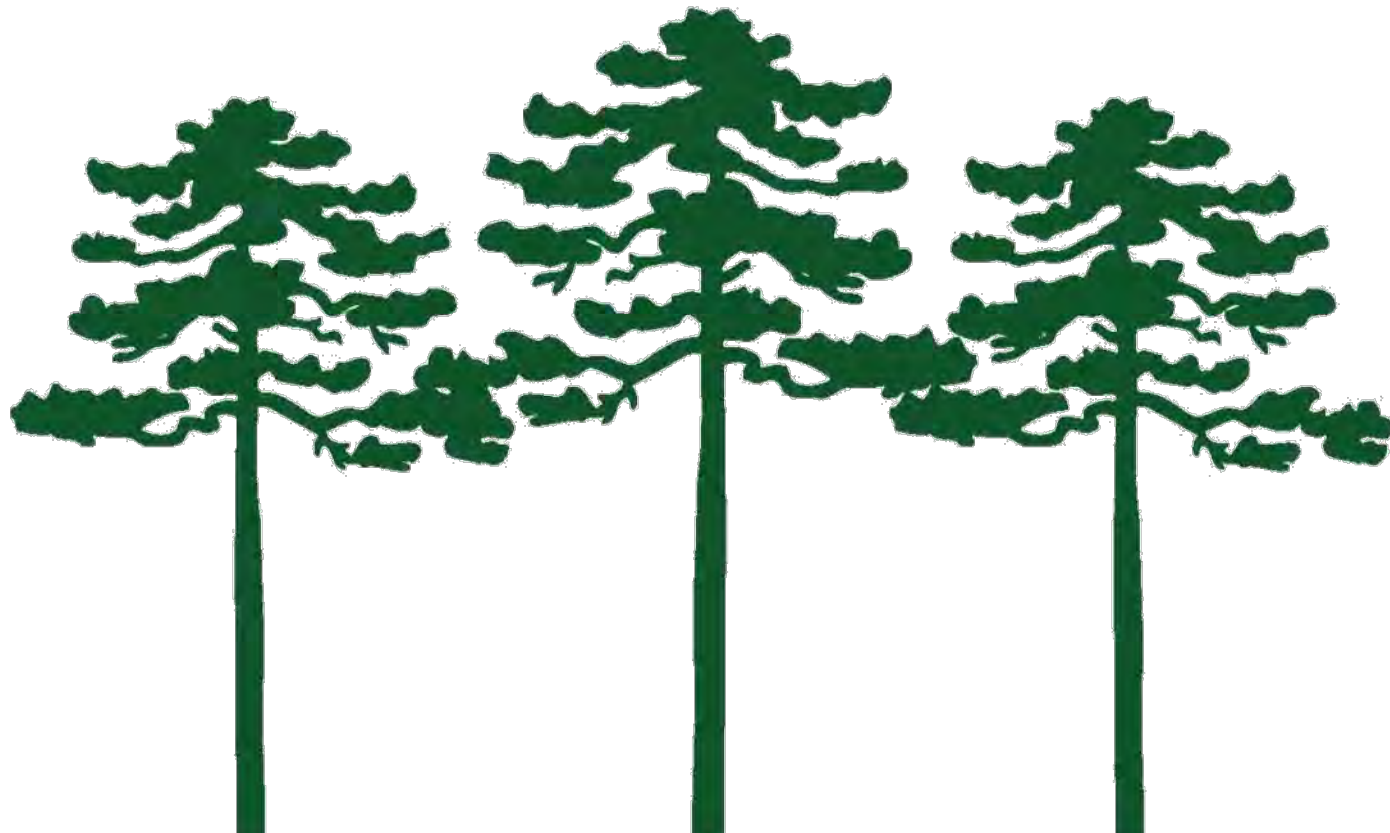


Non-governmental Conservation Easement Partnerships

Angela Klug

The Nature Conservancy





Rural and Family Lands Protection Program



Sentinel Landscape Landowner Outreach

Hank Vinson
Land Program Coordinator
June 5, 2019

Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

Focus: Maintain Florida's Agricultural Land Base

- Protects valuable agricultural lands through perpetual conservation easements.
- Protects natural resources in conjunction with agricultural operations.
- Expands wildlife corridors.
- Buffers military installations from development.



Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

Acquisition History:

- Protected 54,403 acres utilizing \$81.3M in RFLPP funds and \$16.5M in partner funding.
- Negotiations/due diligence in process on 27,598 acres utilizing approximately \$14M in partner funding.

Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

- Application/Selection Process:
 - 60 Day Application Cycle - typically held annually.
 - Technical Review Team Evaluation (FDACS, WMD's, FDEP, DEO, DHR, etc.).
 - Selection Committee: Public Hearing and Ranking Meeting.
 - Acquisition and Restoration Council approval.
 - Governor and Cabinet Approval.



Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

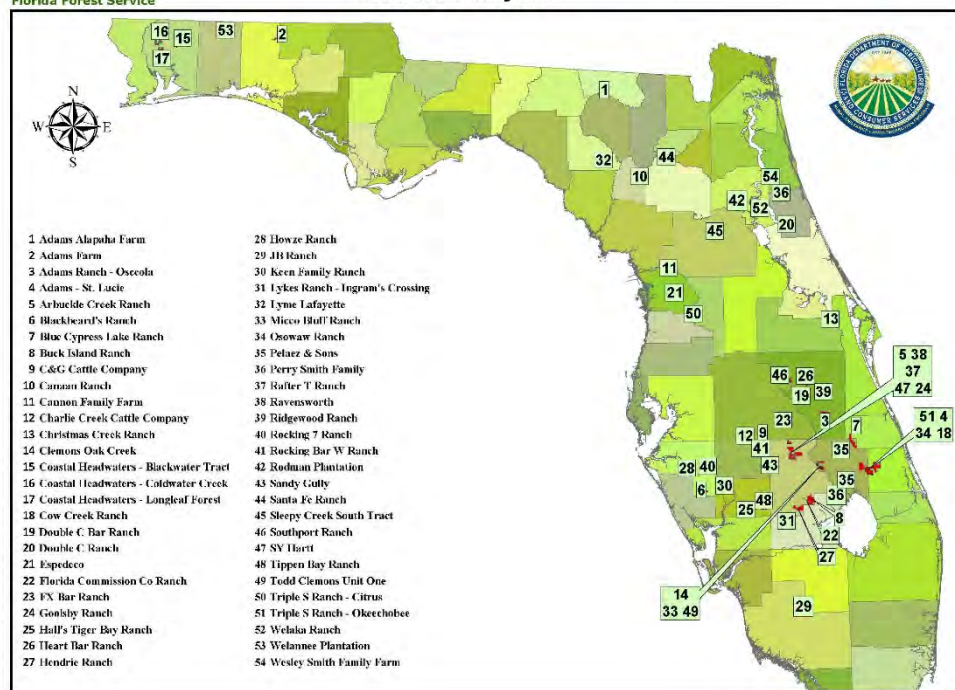
Evaluated 144 Projects in 2018

54 Tier 1 Projects
-237,758 Acres

89 projects in Tiers 2 and 3
-135,000 Acres

Department of Agriculture
& Consumer Services
Florida Forest Service

Rural & Family Lands Protection Program 2018 Tier I Projects



NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED, COMMISSIONER



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES

Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

- Acquisition process
 - Negotiate Easement Terms.
 - Title Work and Map Significant Natural Areas.
 - Appraisal/Negotiate Option Price.
 - Board of Trustees approval.
 - Due Diligence (ESA, Baseline Document, Survey, etc.).
 - Closing.
 - Post-closing monitoring by Florida Forest Service.



Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

Hank Vinson

Land Program Coordinator

Hank.Vinson@FreshFromFlorida.com

(850) 681-5828

<https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Protect-Our-Environment/Rural-and-Family-Lands-Protection-Program>





United States Department of Agriculture



Farm Service Agency Programs Overview

FSA Disaster Assistance

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Overview

- Part of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), under the new Farm Production and Conservation mission area:
 - Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 - Risk Management Agency (RMA)
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- FSA delivers farm programs, loans to help agricultural producers, partner organizations provide food, fuel, fiber
- Farm Bill – FSA administers 50 federal programs authorized by 2018 Farm Bill



Getting Started with FSA

Determine Your Needs

- Disaster Assistance
 - Livestock losses; Property, equipment damage
- Commodity, Price Support
 - Protect against market losses
- Conservation Efforts
 - Protect endangered wildlife; Reduce erosion
- Farm Loans
 - Start new operation
 - Expand production, equipment
 - Begin specialty/niche operation
 - Sustain farming operations

FSA Florida Webpage - www.fsa.usda.gov/fl

USDA Service Centers - offices.usda.gov



United States Department of Agriculture

Getting Started with FSA - GovDelivery

- FSA's electronic news service delivers important state and local program information instantly
 - State Newsletters, County News Bulletins, Time-Sensitive local text messages
 - Subscribe at your local Service Center
 - Subscribe online at www.fsa.usda.gov/fl on Main Page
 - SMS Alerts: Important, time-sensitive text messages from your local FSA office
 - Text FL and your county name (no spaces) to FSANOW (372669)
 - Example: Recipient = FSANOW (372-669)
 Message = FLHighlands

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

- Eligibility Requirements
 - Livestock must have died in excess of normal mortality as direct result of eligible loss condition that occurred no later than 60 calendar days from ending date of applicable adverse weather event
 - Livestock must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the day they died
- Application Requirements
 - Participant must provide Notice of Loss within 30 calendar days of when loss of livestock is apparent to producer
 - Complete application for payment and provide required supporting documentation for loss no later than 90 calendar days after end of calendar year in which eligible loss condition occurred





Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

- Provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, not covered by LFP and LIP.



Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

- Covered Losses:
 - Livestock Feed Losses
 - Livestock Grazing Losses
 - Honeybee Colony Losses
 - Honeybee Hives Losses
 - Honeybee Feed Losses
 - Bait and Game Fish Losses
 - Aquatic Species Feed Losses



Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

- Available for crops not covered by RMA
- Financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops impacted by natural disaster resulting in lower yields, crop losses, or prevents crop planting
- NAP Coverage must be purchased by crop application closing date



Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

- Eligible Causes of Loss Include:
 - Drought
 - Excessive Wind/Tornado/Hurricane
 - Freeze
 - Hail
 - Flood/Excessive Moisture
 - Earthquake
 - Conditions related to damaging weather or adverse natural occurrence; disease, insect infestation, heat, sufficient chill hours

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

- Eligibility Conditions

- Mortality above and below ground as result of eligible natural disaster event
- Stand must have sustained mortality loss in excess of 18% after adjusted for normal mortality
- Damaged trees, bushes, vines no longer commercially viable; may be considered “dead” in determining mortality threshold
- Applicants who suffer eligible tree, bush, vine loss must provide application and supporting documentation to FSA within 90 calendar days of each disaster event or date when loss is apparent to producer

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

- Eligible producers may be reimbursed for cost of replanting/rehabilitating trees damaged in excess of 18% mortality as follows:
 - Replanting and cost of seedlings or cuttings for tree, bush, vine replacement; the lesser of either:
 - 65% of actual total cost of practice
 - Total calculated using rates established by DAFP for practice
 - Cost of pruning, removal, other costs incurred for salvaging existing trees, bushes, vines; in case of mortality, to prepare land to replant trees, bushes, vines, the lesser of:
 - 50% of actual cost of practice
 - Total calculated using rates established by DAFP for practice

An aerial photograph of a farm. The top half shows green fields with winding, dark-colored irrigation canals. The bottom half shows a golden-brown field where two red combine harvesters are working, leaving dark tracks behind them.

FSA Farm Loan Types

- Direct Loan Program
 - Funded by FSA; Congressional appropriations
 - Direct Operating Loans
 - Direct Farm Ownership Loans
 - Microloans
 - Emergency Loans
 - Youth Loans
- Guaranteed Loan Program
 - From USDA-approved commercial lenders
 - Farm Operating Loans
 - Line of Credit
 - Farm Ownership
 - Conservation Loans
 - Land Contract Guarantee

FSA Farm Loan Programs

Designed to help eligible family farmers, ranchers start, expand, change operation

- All loan programs considered temporary source of credit
- Borrower expected to return to conventional credit sources



FSA Farm Loans – General Eligibility

- U.S. Citizen, non-citizen national, qualified alien
- Owner/Operator of family-sized farm
- Demonstrate management ability
- Unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere
- Legal capacity to incur loan obligation



FSA Farm Loans – General Eligibility

- *(Continued)...*
- Acceptable credit history
- Not delinquent on federal debt
- No Prior FSA debt forgiveness
- Not disqualified for Crop Insurance violations
- No conviction for controlled substance

Farm Loan Programs Information Chart

| Type of Loan | Maximum Loan Amount | Rates and Terms |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Direct Farm Ownership | \$300,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term: Up to 40 years Interest rate: fixed** |
| Direct Down Payment | The lowest of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45% of the farm or ranch purchase price 45% of the appraised value \$300,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term: Up to 20 years Interest rate: fixed** |
| Direct Operating | \$300,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term: 1 to 7 years Interest rate: fixed: ** |
| Direct Emergency | The lowest of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of actual or physical losses \$500,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term: 1 to 7 years (possibly up to 20 years) for non-real estate purposes Up to 40 years for physical losses on real estate Interest rate: fixed** |
| Guaranteed Farm Ownership | The maximum loan amount is adjusted annually for inflation* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term: Up to 40 years The interest rate is negotiated by you and your lender. |

Farm Loan Programs Information Chart *Continued*

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Guaranteed Operating | The maximum loan amount is adjusted annually for inflation* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term: 1 to 7 years • The interest rate is negotiated by you and your lender. |
| Guaranteed Conservation | The maximum loan amount is adjusted annually for inflation* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term: Up to 20 years • The interest rate is negotiated by you and your lender. |
| Land Contract Guarantee | A maximum purchase price of \$500,000 on a new land contract | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term: Contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years with equal payments during the term of the guarantee. The guarantee period is 10 years. |
| Youth Loan | \$5,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term: 1 to 7 years • Interest rate: fixed: ** |

* To determine the maximum loan limit for the current year, please check with your local FSA loan officer at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app> or our website at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/guaranteed_farm_loans.pdf

** Direct loan interest rates are adjusted monthly and are posted online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=gfmlp&topic=fir> and at your local FSA office.



United States Department of Agriculture



Farm Service Agency
For More Information Contact:
www.fsa.usda.gov

BREAK

Guests are encouraged to visit exhibitors





Avon Park Air Force Range



U.S. AIR FORCE

**Charles “Buck” MacLaughlin
598 Range Squadron**



Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR)



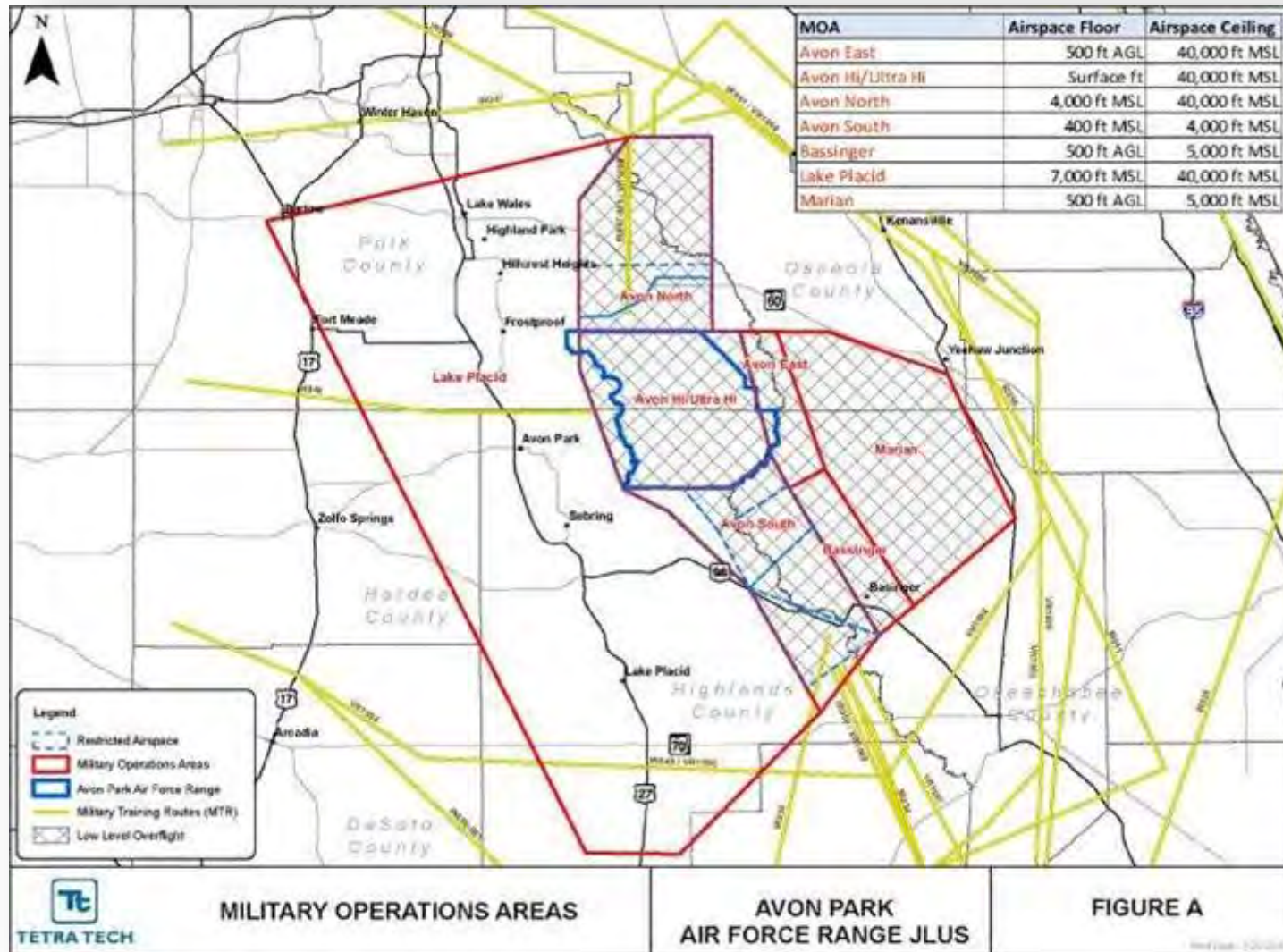
APAFR Mission:

Provide a sustainable, world-class training complex focused on advanced, realistic and relevant training for joint, interagency, and multinational partners and excelling in air-ground integration.





Training Space

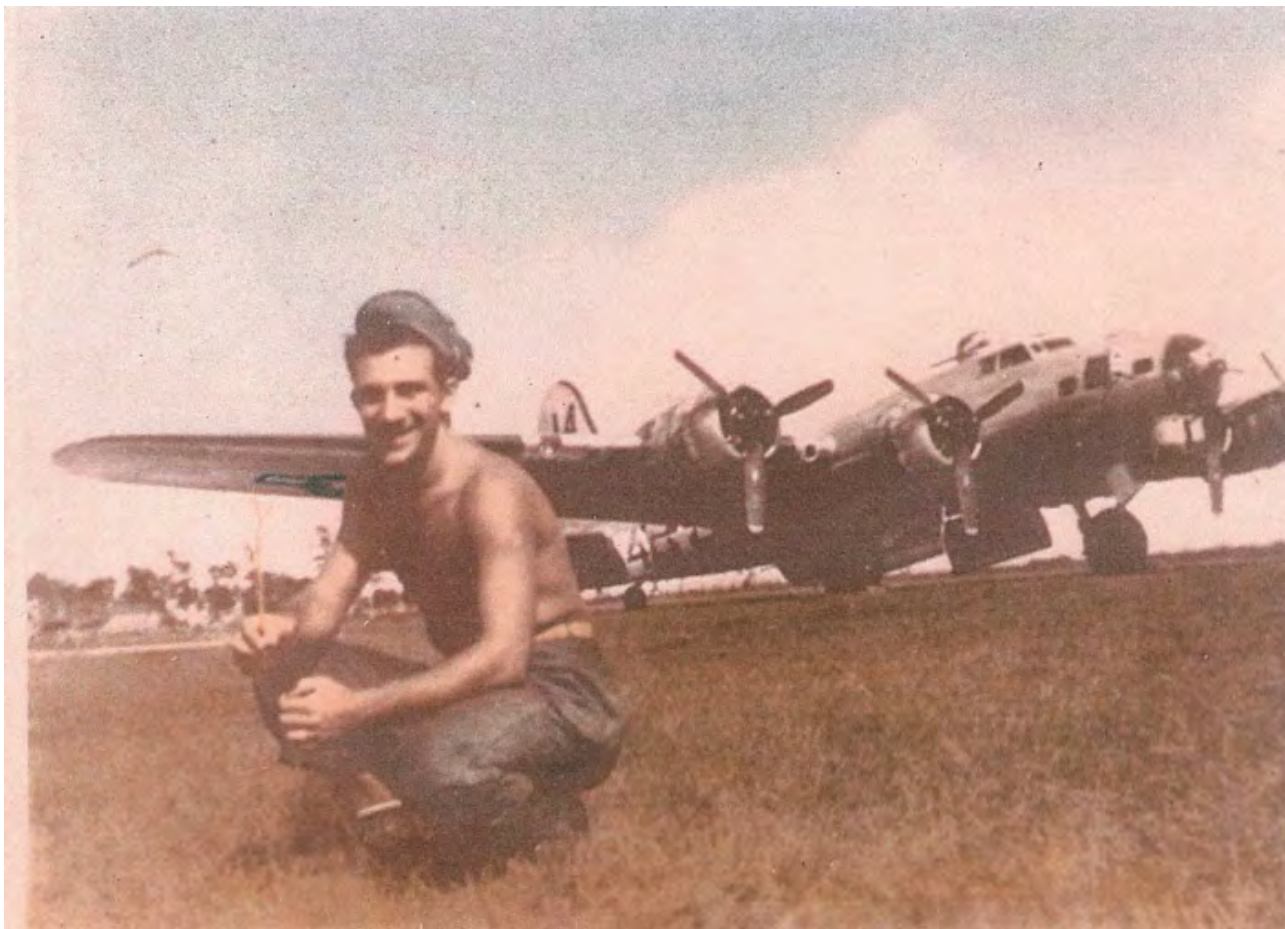




World War II



Pvt. Joseph Molinari at Avon Park











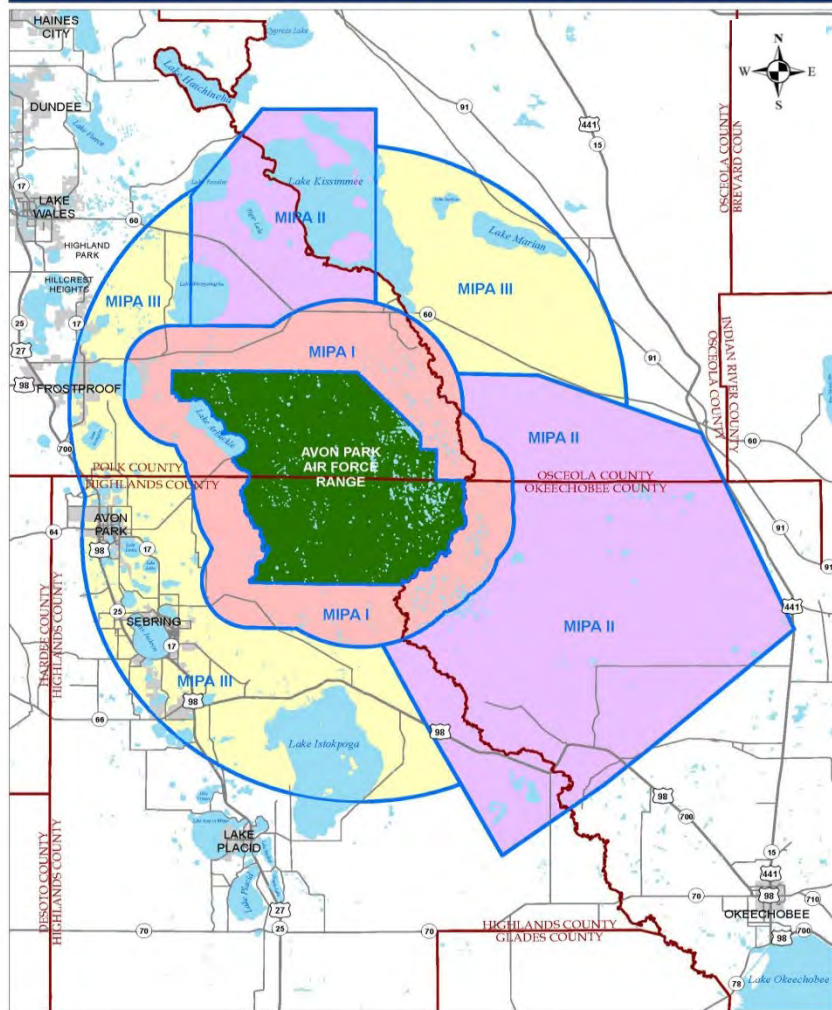




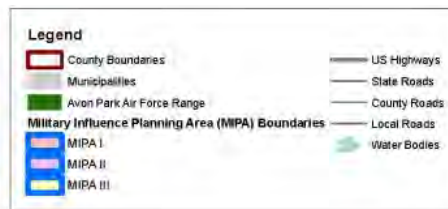
Planning for Mission Sustainment



MILITARY INFLUENCE PLANNING AREAS (MIPAs) - LOCATION MAP



- 2010 Avon Park AFR Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)
- Military Influence Planning Areas (MIPAs)



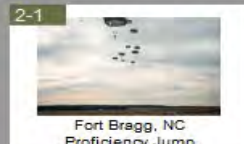
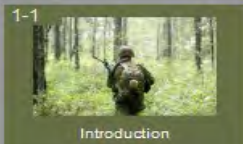
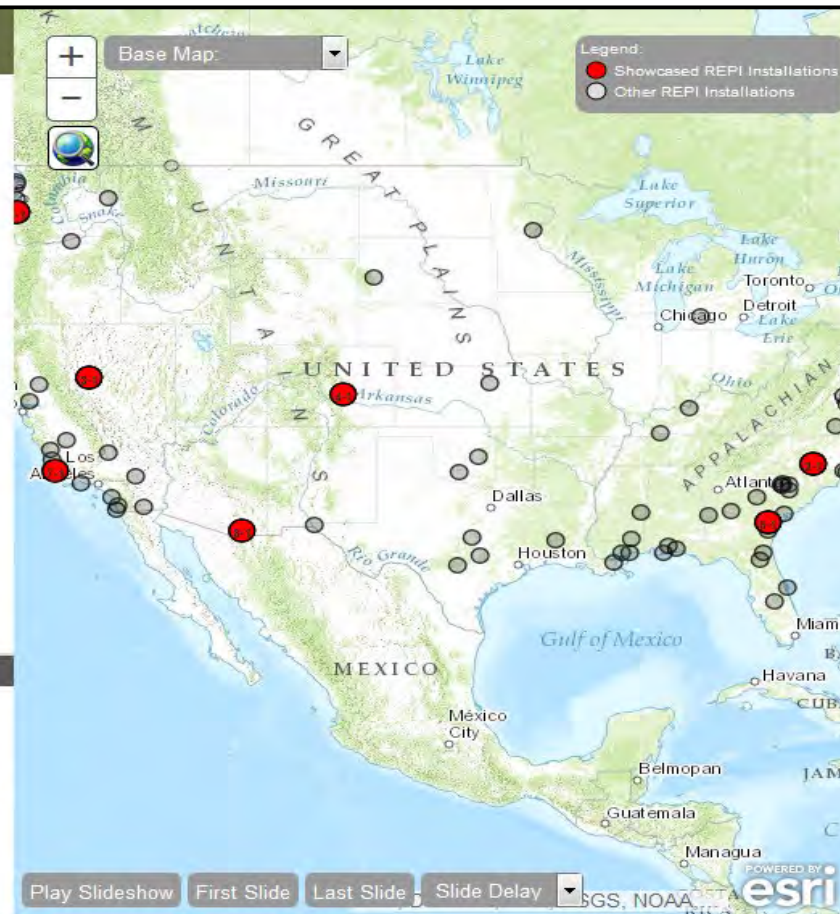


Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program



Introduction

Military installations are important members of their communities, but for years DoD became increasingly concerned about how nearby urban sprawl and regulations to protect endangered species were inhibiting the military's use of training and testing lands. In response, DoD developed the REPI Program to fund cost-sharing partnerships among the military, state and local governments, and conservation organizations. These partnerships obtain easements or other interests in land from willing sellers to preserve critical lands and habitats near our military installations. Together, these partners can achieve their mutual goals at a scale otherwise not possible.



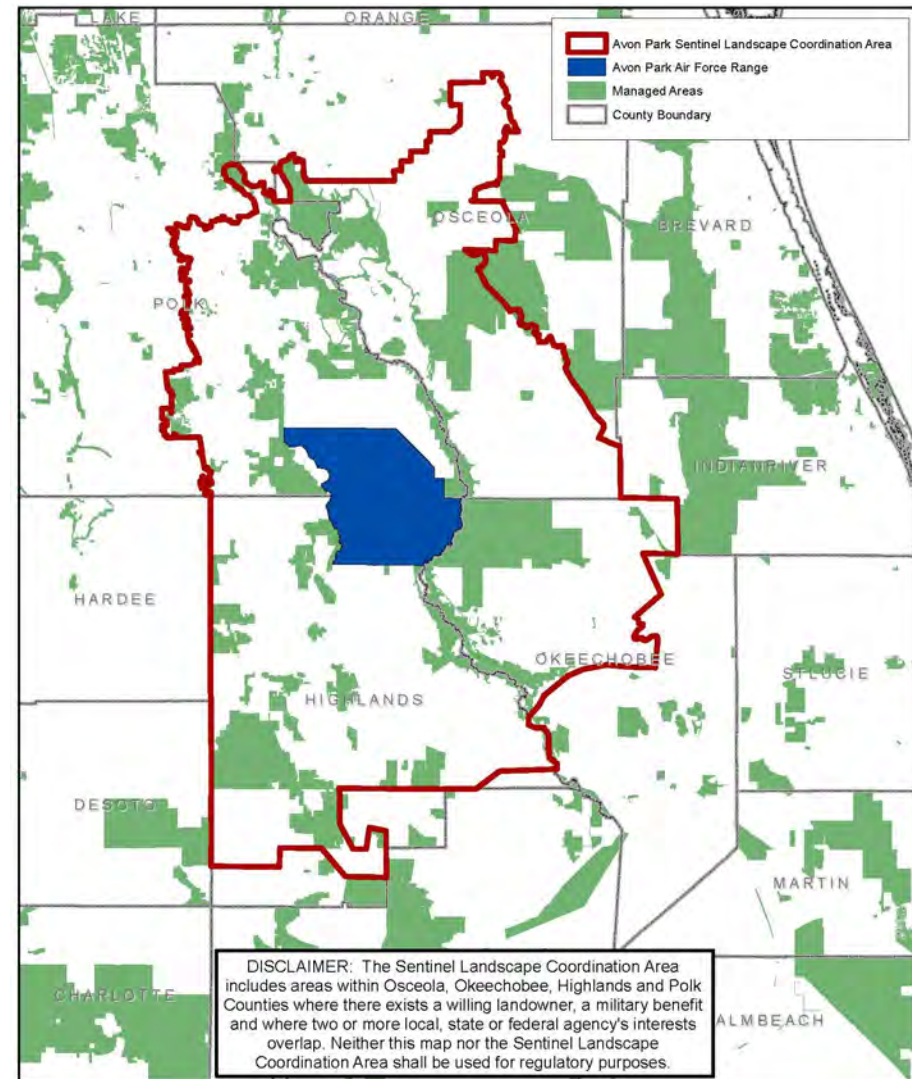


Partnerships





Avon Park AFR Sentinel Landscape





REPI Takeaways



- Federal funding to match partner funding.
- **NOT** for military training!
- **ONLY** willing landowners!
- Partnership with an **Eligible Entity**
 - State/local government or conservation organization
 - Responsible for monitoring and enforcement
- Typical military easement language (Avon Park AFR):
 - Limit density, building heights, nighttime lighting, frequency interference (spectrum)



Questions?





Questions



- **Contact 598 RANS/RMD, Mr. Buck MacLaughlin**
 - **Email: charles.maclaughlin.1@us.af.mil**
 - **DSN: 968-2902**
 - **Comm: 813-828-2902**
 - **Mobile: 813-857-7109**
-

Conservation Easement Tax Implications

Val Lewis

McAlpin Cavalcanti & Lewis CPA



Qualified Conservation Easement

A non-cash charitable contribution governed by
Internal Revenue Code Section 170

Publication 526, Charitable Contributions and
Form 8283, Noncash Charitable Contributions

Just Google Steve Small

Additional guidance can be found on the Steve Small website.
Steve Small is a leading authority on Private Land Protection and has written several books about preserving family lands.

The Easement Must:

Convey a qualified real property interest

(State law determines what qualified real property interest is)

Conveyance to a qualified organization

(Be a qualified organization within the meaning of IRC section 170 and have a commitment to protect the conservation purposes of the donation and have the resources to enforce the restrictions)

Exclusively for conservation purposes

(For the preservation of land areas for outdoor recreation by or education of the general public; or protection of a natural habitat for fish, wildlife, or plants; or the preservation of certain open spaces including farmland or forest land)

Be in perpetuity

(Irrevocably protected and no outstanding rights that could defeat the easement purpose if applicable it will require a mortgage subordination).

No excess benefits or enhancements to related parties

The Easement Must:

The easement document must require that in the event of any subsequent transfer of the conservation easement by the original holder, the subsequent holder agrees to carry out the conservation purpose of the easement and is also a qualified organization.

The Easement Must:

If the donor retains any rights to use the property subject to the easement, documentation sufficient to establish the condition of the property at the time of the “gift” is required. The documentation must be made available to the donee before the conveyance of the easement. A statement must accompany the documentation, signed by both the donor and the donee, specifying that the documentation is an accurate representation of the protected property at the time of the donation. (In some instances this documentation and signed statement has been made a part of the easement deed.)

How much is the deduction?

Typically the deduction is the difference in the value of the easement property before the donation and after the donation.

The conservation easement must be reduced by any cash payment or other economic benefit received as a result of the easement.

Supporting the valuation requires a qualified appraisal conducted within the 60 day period before the conveyance of the easement and completed no later than the due date the tax return on which the deduction is first claimed.

The deduction has various income limitations & carryover limitations. For an easement to qualify for a farmer or rancher it must contain a restriction requiring that the land remain available for agriculture.

What do I need?

Baseline Study

Title policy

Closing statement when the property was purchased or basis/cost information

Closing statement for the sale of the easement

Detail of property owned by donor or related person contiguous and noncontiguous to the easement (enhancement rule)

Mineral interest owned by other parties

Recorded mortgage subordination

Recorded conservation easement deed

Qualified appraisal

IRS Form 8283

Supplemental statement to Form 8283

Cotemporaneous written acknowledgment (gift letter)

Baseline study

Includes a description of the encumbrance; a description and map of the conservation characteristics and areas (i.e. listing of identified plants or wildlife) Maps or series of maps depicting roads, fences, existing structures, trails, water bodies, wetlands, and other property features; identification of any reserved building sites; survey and plat maps; description of any management plans, such as a timber plan; on-site photographs possibly including aerial photographs; the study author's name and professional credentials.

Conservation Easement Deed

Includes what property is being encumbered; what is the stated conservation purpose; does the deed protect the property in perpetuity; what type of public access is allowed to the property; what rights are reserved by the taxpayer; and what are the provisions for mortgagee subordination and allocation of proceeds upon extinguishment

Qualified Appraisal, Form 8283 & Gift Letter

Several requirements for a qualified appraisal –
be sure you follow the guidelines in the literature

All individuals that signed the appraisal must sign the
Form 8283. The donee must also sign the Form 8283.

The Gift Letter is a letter from the donee to you
acknowledging the gift and requires specific language.

Tips

Maintain a journal and document all changes to the application through the process so you know exactly what property you have the easement on.

Gather all of the information and know what you have to do before you get started.



US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Created in 1935 in response to the Dust Bowl crisis
- Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Previously SCS)



NRCS Florida

Our Vision:

- Productive Lands, Healthy Environment

Our Mission:

- Helping People Help the Land

NRCS Technical Assistance ...

- Soil Conservation
- Animal Waste Mang.
- Prescribed Grazing
- Pest And Weed Control
- Habitat Restoration
- Irrigation Water
Management
- Nutrient And Pesticide Management
- And Much More!!!



NRCS Financial Programs...

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):
 - Agricultural Land Easements (*formerly FRPP & GRP*)
 - Wetland Reserve Easements (*formerly WRP*)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program
 - Healthy Forest Reserve Program Easements
- NRCS is NOT a regulatory agency -
- Participation in All Programs is Voluntary!!

Florida Easements Overview

- Florida has received the largest NRCS Easements funding allocation in the nation since 2009.



- NRCS has received >\$650 million to acquire and restore conservation easements
- National: 13,000+ easements / ~2.5 Million acres
- Florida: 200+ easements / 220,000+ acres

ACEP Wetland Reserve Easements

Landowner Reserved Rights

- Convey, Transfer, or Alienate Title
- Quiet Enjoyment
- Control of Access
- Undeveloped Recreational Use
(Hunting, fishing, hiking, birding, etc.)
- Off-Site Extraction of Subsurface Resources

Program Administration

NRCS provides matching funds to eligible entities for the purchase of perpetual agricultural easements.

Eligible Entities

- **State, Tribal, or local governments or non-governmental organizations**
- **Demonstrate commitment to the conservation of agricultural land and have the ability to acquire, hold, manage and enforce easements.**

Key differences from other easement programs:

- **Entity submits application to NRCS for funding (landowner cannot apply directly to the program)**
- **Entity is the easement holder; NRCS has a right of enforcement**

Program Administration

NRCS provides assistance to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program.

The landowner voluntarily limits future land uses, yet retains private ownership. NRCS develops a wetland restoration & maintenance plan with input from landowner

The program offers landowners two enrollment options:

- Permanent Easements: A conservation easement in perpetuity; NRCS pays up to 100% of the easement value and restoration costs.
- 30-Year Easements: Easement expires after 30 years; NRCS pays up to 75% of the easement value and restoration costs.

Questions?

Conservation Easements Private Landowner Perspective

Mr. Jim Strickland

Strickland Ranch



Wrap-up, Survey & Explore

Chad Allison

Program Manager
Central Florida Regional Planning Council

