

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)



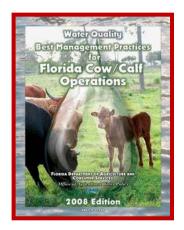
Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

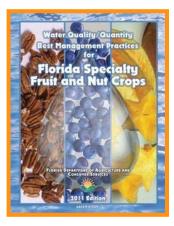
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Agricultural Water Policy

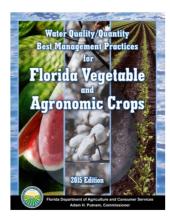
Vanessa Bessey
Environmental Administrator



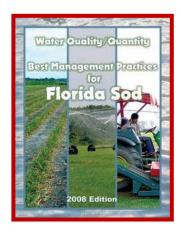
BMP Manuals

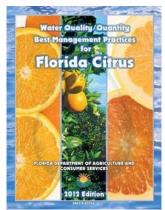


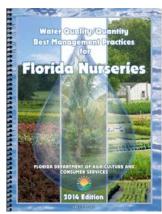


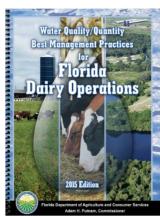


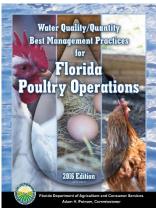












Practice Categories:

Nutrient Management Irrigation Management Water Resource Protection



How Do BMPs Work/Help The Environment?

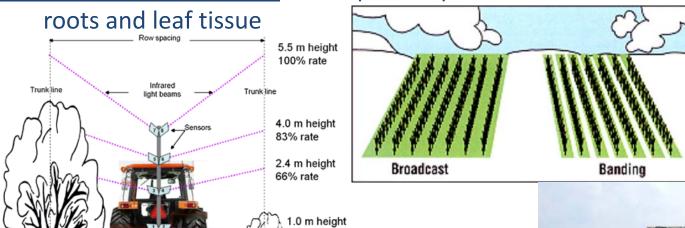
- Improve Water Quality by reducing nutrients specifically N and P
- Conserve Water by improving irrigation efficiencies and/or reducing groundwater usage
- <u>Protect Water Resources</u> by reducing or preventing discharges of water and sediments



Examples of BMPs and ImpactsNutrient Management

• <u>Precision Fertilization</u> – 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



50% rate 0.0 m height



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

<u>Precision Irrigation</u> – Allows placement of water close to the plant, reduces evaporation, individual valves may be guided by soil moisture





Examples of BMPs and ImpactsWater 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/AgriculturalWater-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

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

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

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

- Current Grants:
 - US Endowment/NRCS
 - o 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:

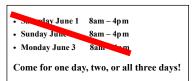
- 9 Rx burns
- 18 Burn Plans
- 2 PBA Meetings
- 2 upcoming Learn & Burn Workshops



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



The priority is to merease 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

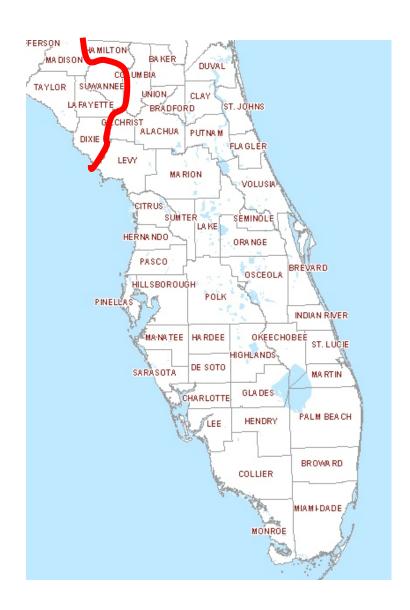
http://wildlandrestoration.org/flagler-county-learn-burn/

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:

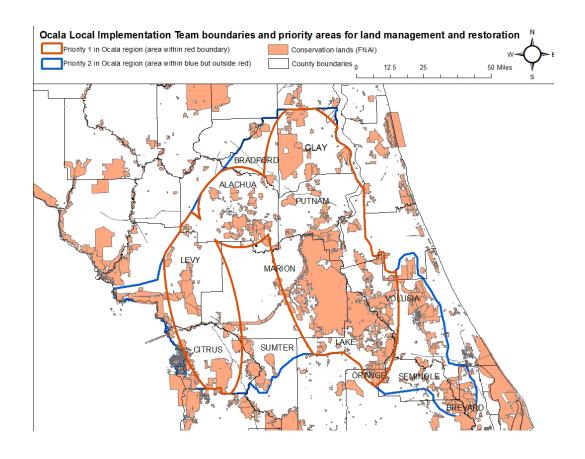
Purpose:

- 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.



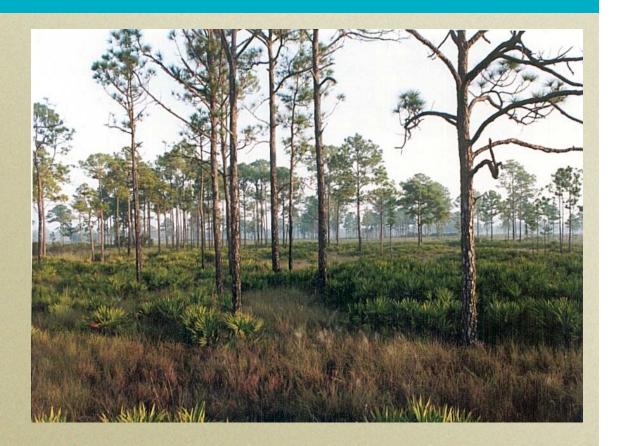
BREAK

Guests are encouraged to visit exhibitors



Landowner Assistance Program

Conservation
Partnerships on Private
Lands



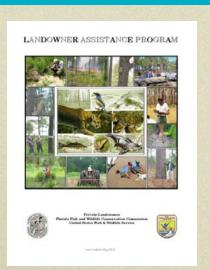


Joe Sage
Biological Scientist IV
Office of Conservation Planning Services
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission





FWC's Landowner Assistance Program

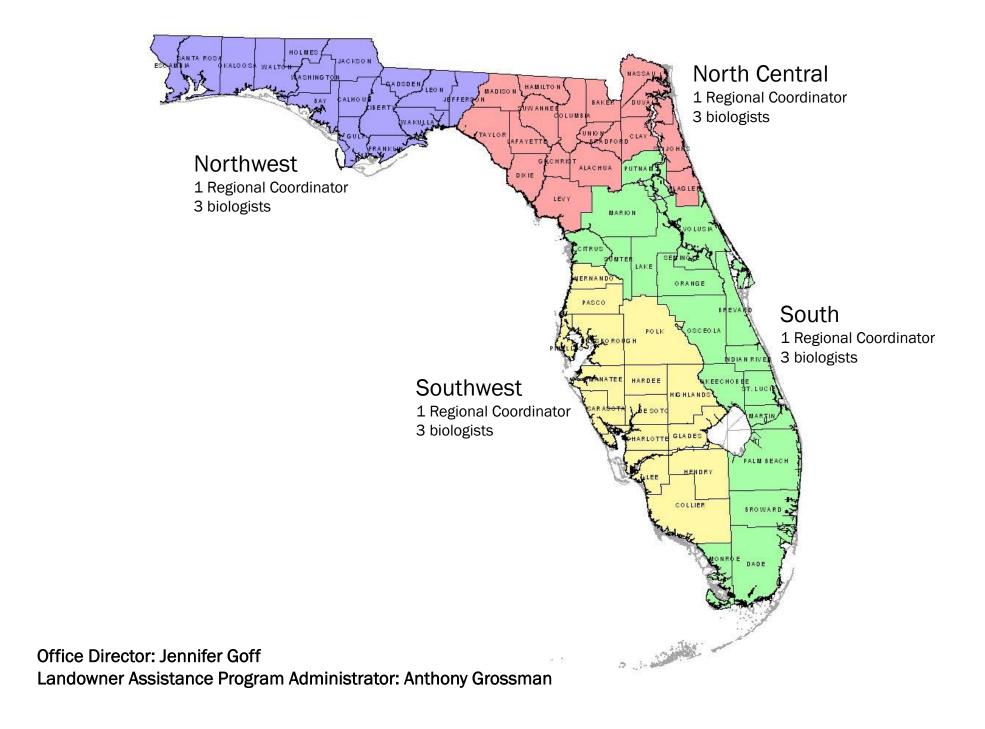


"Providing science-based resource management recommendations and financial assistance to conserve and enhance Florida's habitat resources."









Natural resource agency partnerships



Landowner Assistance Programs and Activities

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

Landowner Assistance	Environmental Quality
Program (LAP)	Incentives Program (EQIP)
FWC	NRCS
Partners for Fish and	Conservation Stewardship
Wildlife Program (PFW)	Program (CSP)

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

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

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





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





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/

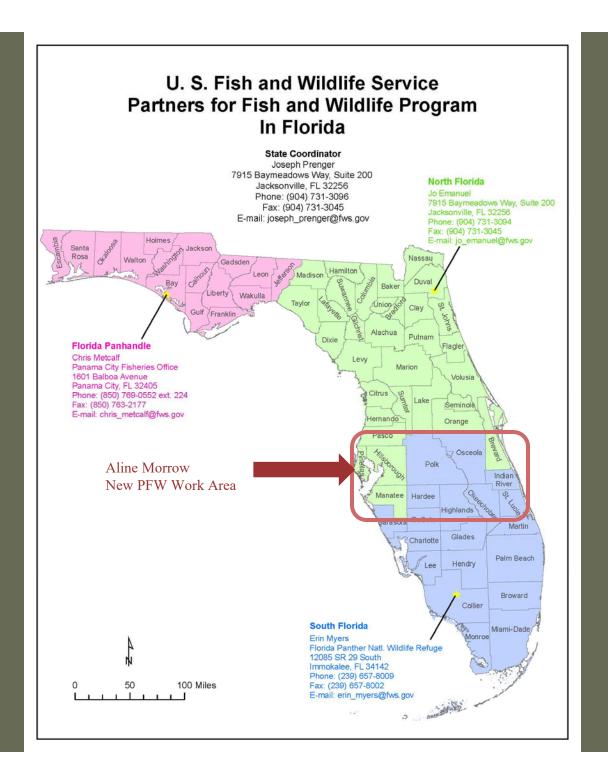


Wildlife Habitat Management Private Landowner Perspective

Mr. Palmer Simmons

Simmons Grove & Cattle Co.







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





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

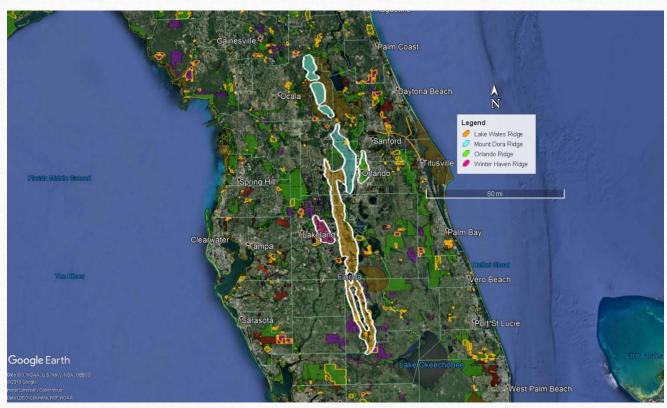
Sand skink Sign



Scrub-jay Conservation Banks



Patrick J. Blake Cornell University

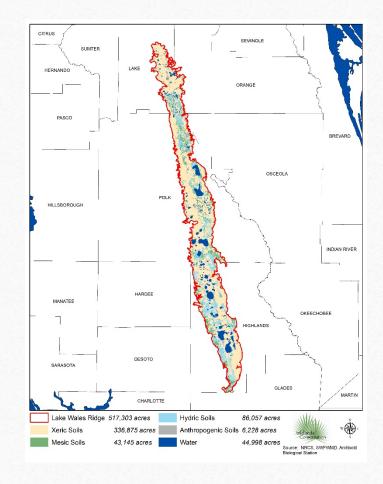


RIDGES OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Pre-settlement Habitats

Xeric Soil Native Habitats

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





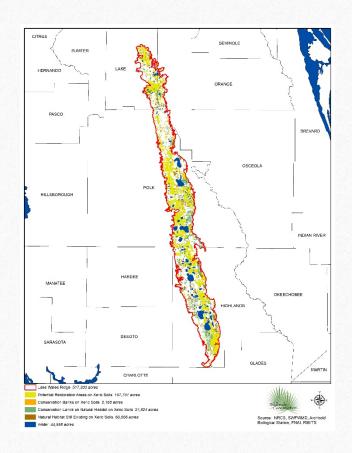






Restoration Potential

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



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



Improved Pasture

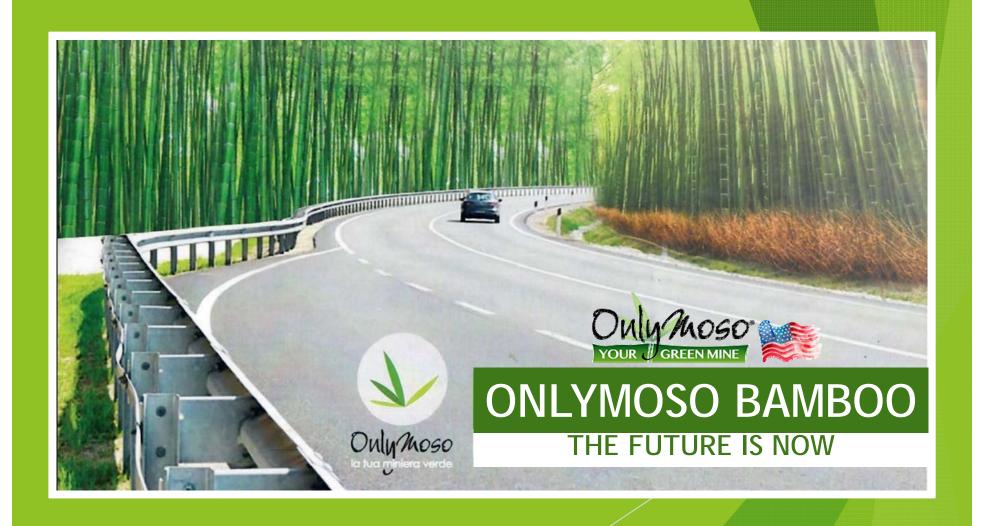


Citrus Groves

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.







A NEW
SUSTAINABLE AND
PROFITABLE CROP IN
THE UNITED STATES





OUR COMPANY

Parent Company OnlyMoso ITALY



OnlyMoso ®
Via dell'Industria, 16
61010 Loc. Pirano – Tavullia (PU)
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
ONLY MOSO
YOUR GREENMINE



Only Moso
Ia tua miniera verde



Commercial Division

















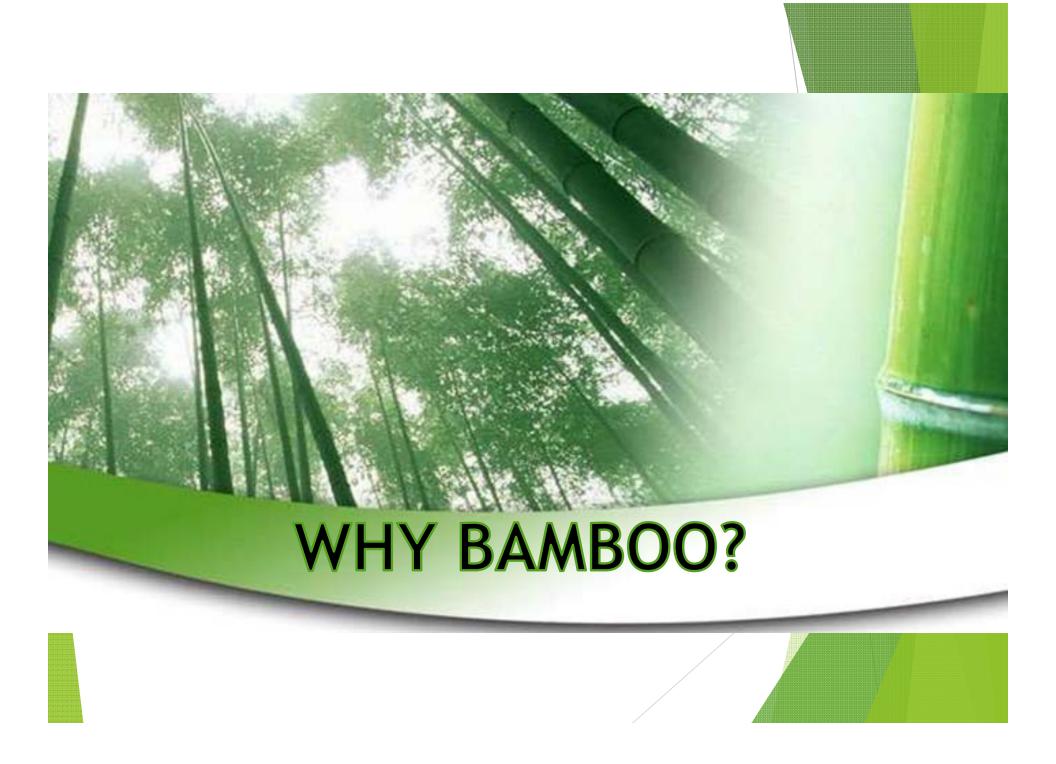






ONLy Moso la tua miniera verde







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.









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

OnlyMoso 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.



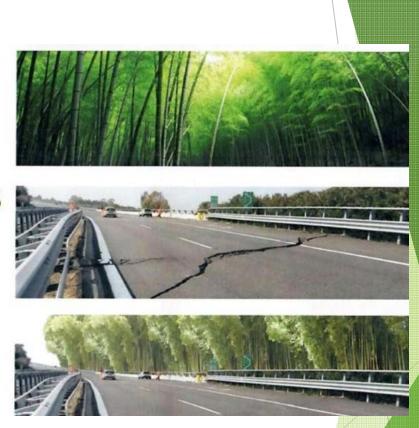




REDUCTION OF HYDROGEOLOGICAL DISASTERS

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.

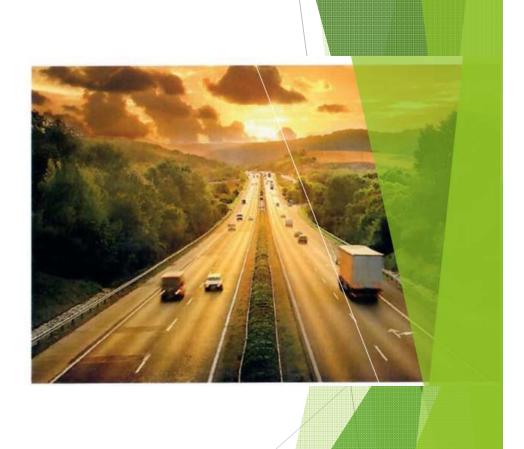




SOUND ABSORPTION

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.

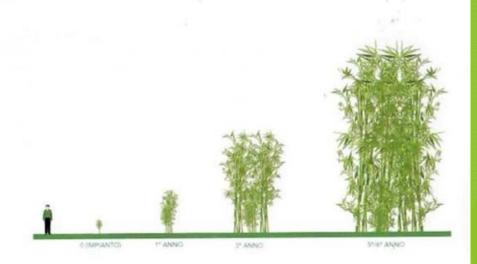




QUICK GROWTH

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.







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







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



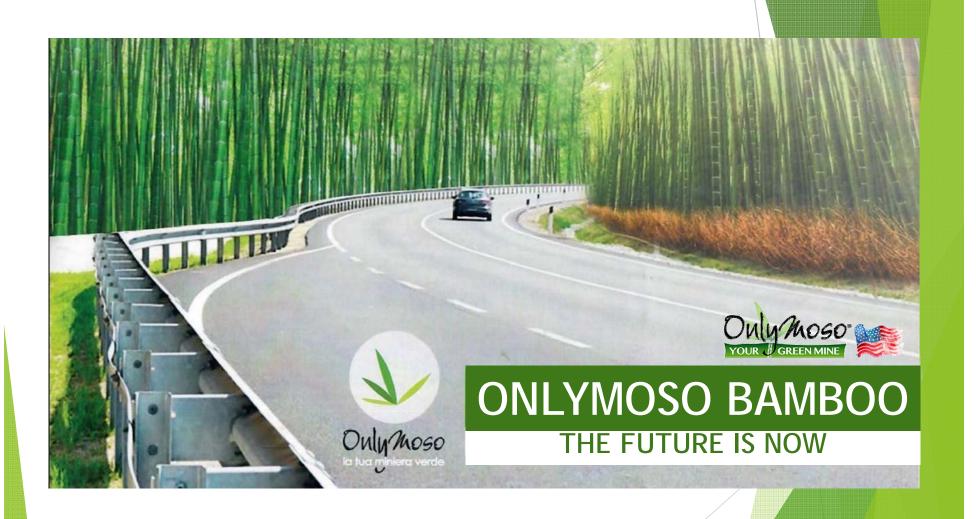
ONE TIME PURCHASE

ONE TIME PLANTING

LOW MAINTENANCE

10 Year Renewable Guaranteed Crop Buyback Agreement You Harvest and We Pick Up at Your Location











Call 954.530.3385 / 305.399.5120

www.OnlyMoso.com

Diego.Cespedes@onlymososales.com

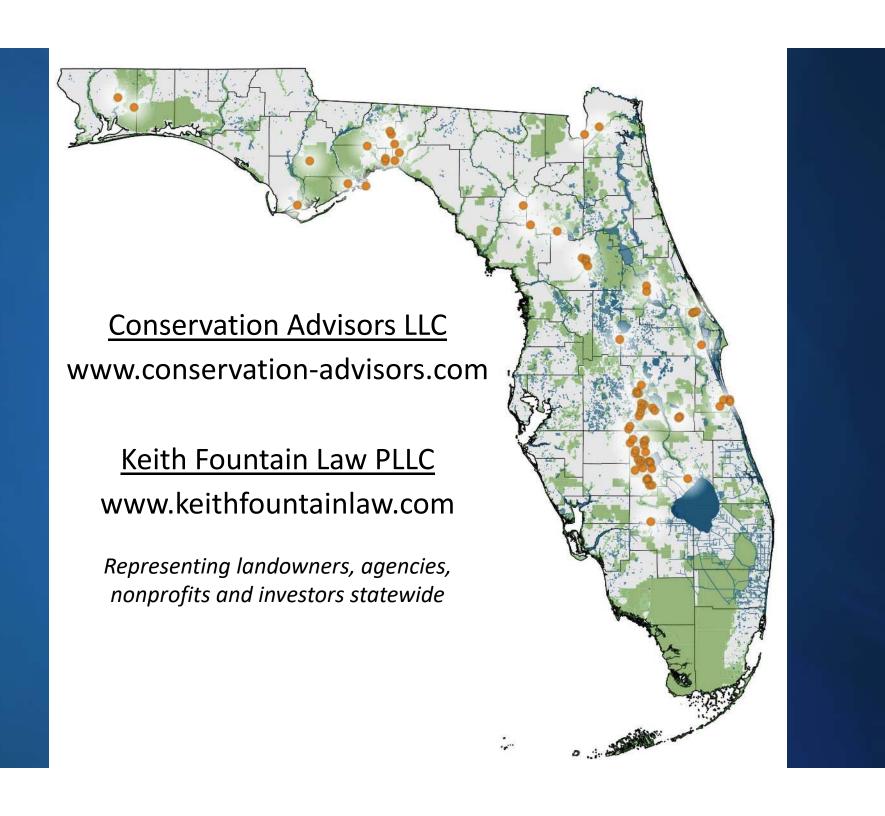
LUNCH & EXPLORE

Guests are encouraged to visit exhibitors





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



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



- 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
 - o Industrial, commercial, retail residential uses
 - Physical alteration, particularly hydrological
 - Construction of improvements
 - Landowner responsibility for nuisance exotic and invasive species
- Reserved rights
 - o Recreation
 - o Agriculture
 - o 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

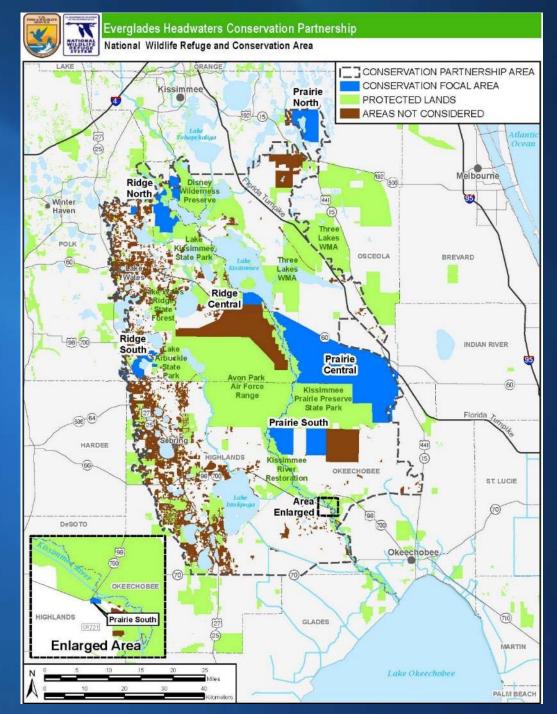
- Prohibits activities detrimental to soil conservation (commercial sod operations)
- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Grazing plan produced by NRCS
- Timber management plan produced by FFS
- <u>Limited</u> improvements for agriculture as allowed by the management plans
- 2% impervious surface limitation

Florida Forever / USFWS

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



Everglades Headwaters NWR&CA



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
 - o 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 ...

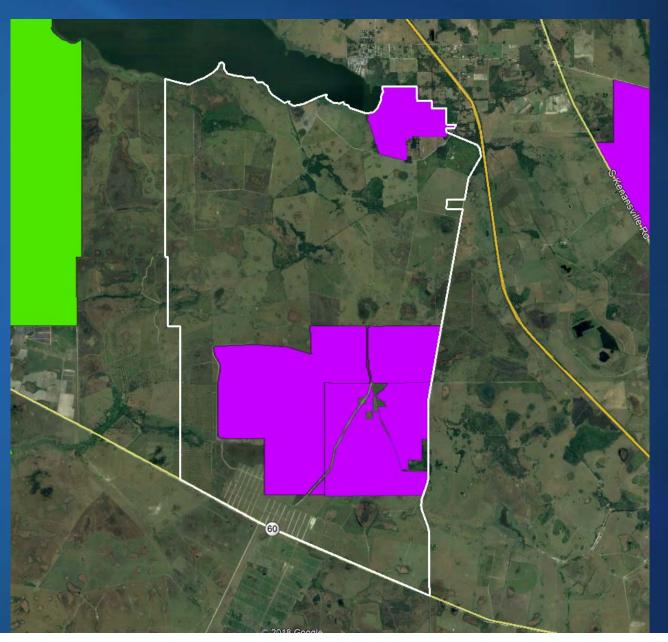


New Project Timelines

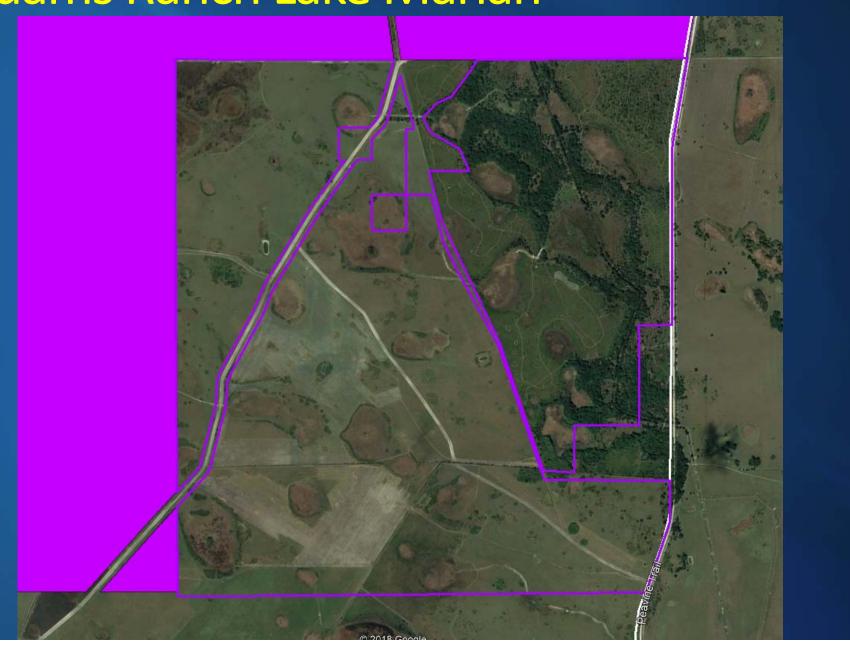
- RFLPP: As needed, last ranked in 2018
- NRCS ALE: Closed April
- NRCS WRE: Closed April
- Florida Forever: April 30, October 31
- USFWS: Open
- US Forest Legacy: ~October 1



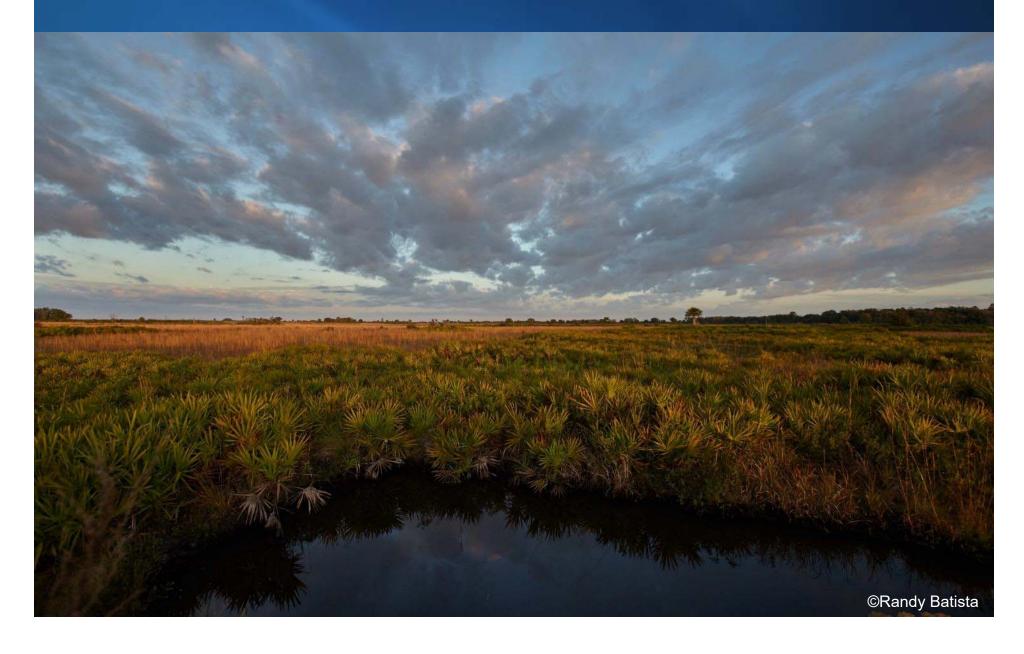
Adams Ranch Lake Marian



Adams Ranch Lake Marian



Questions?

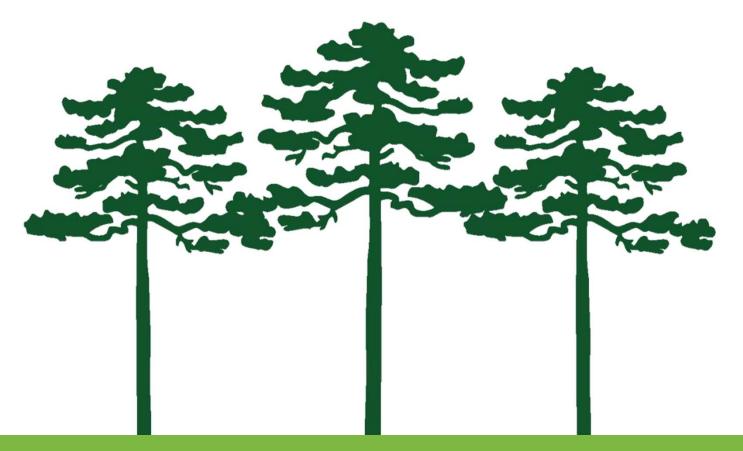


Non-governmental Conservation Easement Partnerships

Angela Klug

The Nature Conservancy







Sentinel Landscape Landowner Outreach

Hank Vinson Land Program Coordinator June 5, 2019

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.



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.



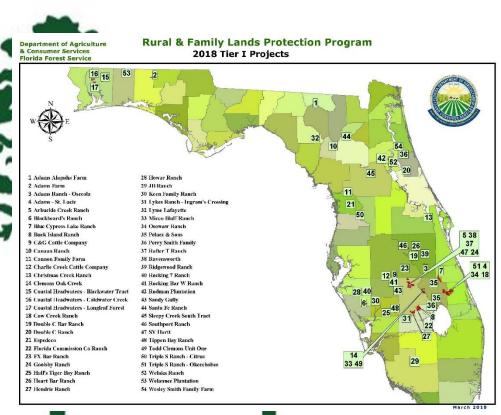
- Application/Selection Process:
 - 60 Day Application Cycle typically held annually.
 - Technical Review Team Evaluation (FDACS, WMD's, FDEP, DEO, DHR, etc.).
 - Selection Committee: Public Hearing and Ranking Meeting.
 - Acquisition and Restoration Council approval.
 - Governor and Cabinet Approval.



Evaluated 144 Projects in 2018

54 Tier 1 Projects
-237,758 Acres

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



FLORID

NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED, COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES

- 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.





Land Program Coordinator

Hank Vinson were a from Hands 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 (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





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





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
 - o 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	Term: Up to 40 yearsInterest rate: fixed**	
Direct Down Payment	 The lowest of the following: 45% of the farm or ranch purchase price 45% of the appraised value \$300,000 	 Term: Up to 20 years Interest rate: fixed** 	
Direct Operating	\$300,000	Term: 1 to 7 yearsInterest rate: fixed: **	
Direct Emergency	 The lowest of the following: 100% of actual or physical losses \$500,000 	 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*	Term: Up to 40 yearsThe 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*	•	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*	•	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	•	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	•	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



BREAK

Guests are encouraged to visit exhibitors





Avon Park Air Force Range





Charles "Buck" MacLaughlin 598 Range Squadron



Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR)



APAFR Mission:

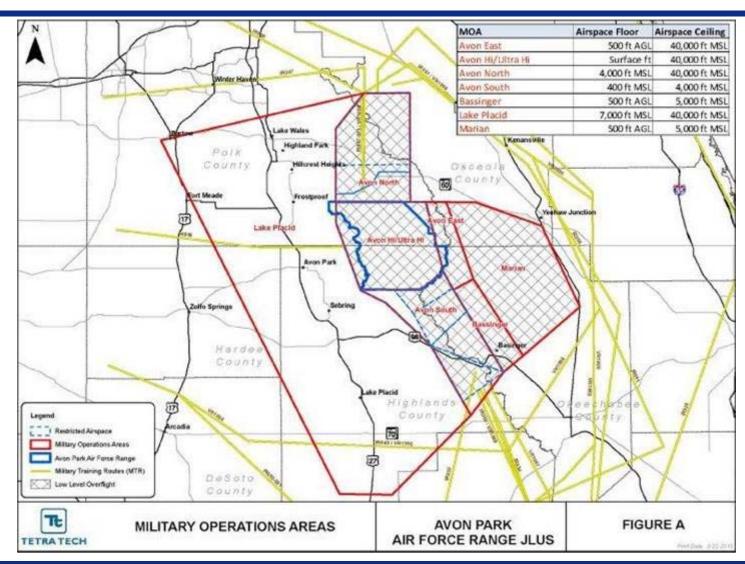
Provide a sustainable, world-class training complex focused on advanced, realistic and relevant training for joint, interagency, and multinational partners and excelling in air-ground integration.





Training Space







World War II



Pvt. Joseph Molinari at Avon Park









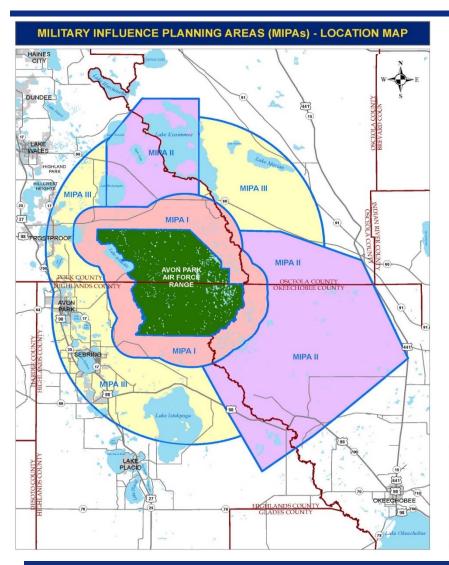




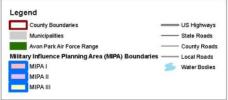


Planning for Mission Sustainment



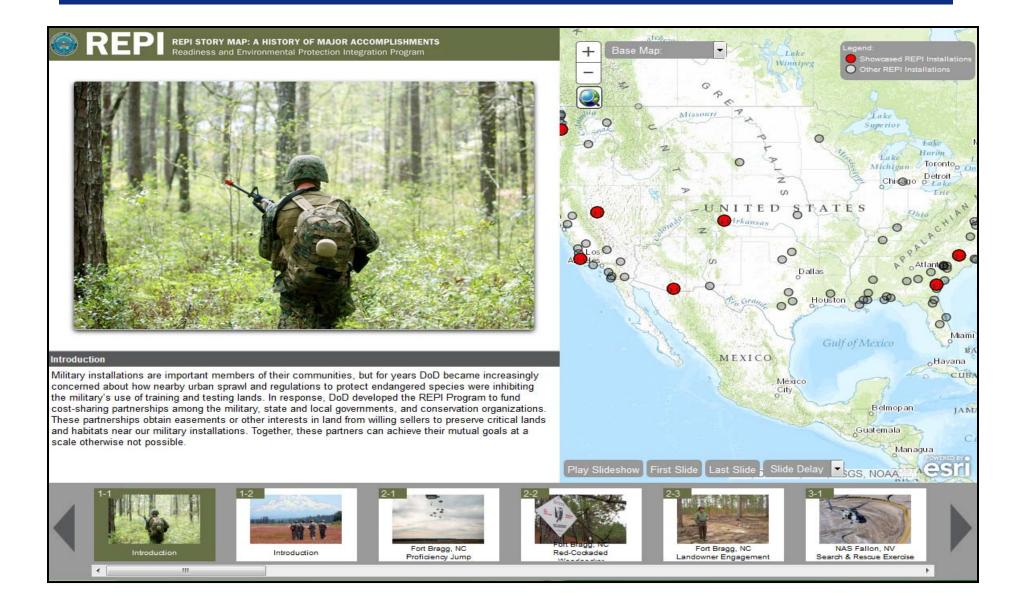


- 2010 Avon Park AFR Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)
- Military Influence Planning Areas (MIPAs)





Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program





Partnerships

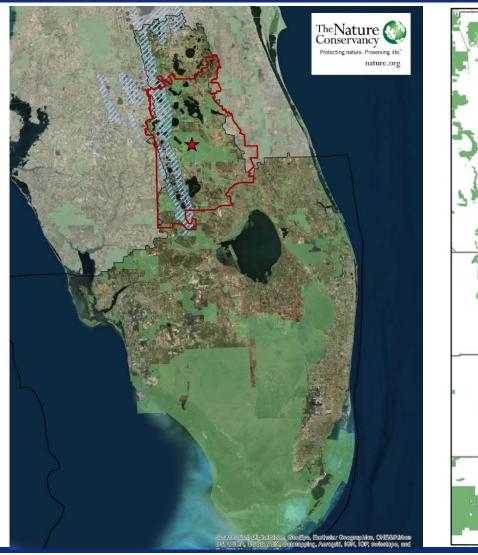


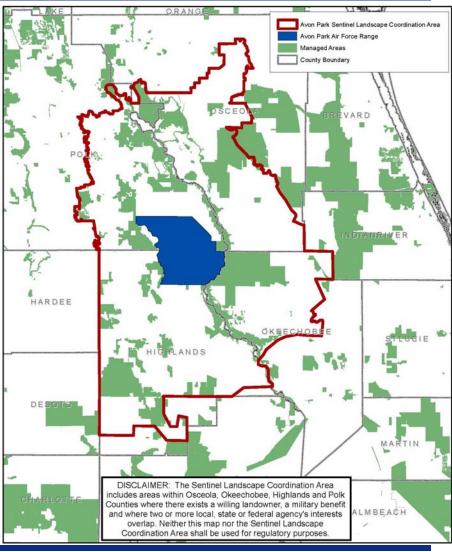




Avon Park AFR Sentinel Landscape









REPI Takeaways



- Federal funding to match partner funding.
- NOT for military training!
- ONLY willing landowners!
- Partnership with an <u>Eligible Entity</u>
 - 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.

Conservation Easement Property Appraisal Implications

C. Raymond McIntyre, CFA

Highlands County Property Appraiser







US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Natural Resources Conservation Service







NRCS Technical Assistance ...

- Soil Conservation
- Animal Waste Mang.
- Prescribed Grazing
- Pest And Weed Control
- Habitat Restoration
- Irrigation WaterManagement
- 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



- 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 nongovernmental 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.



Conservation Easements Private Landowner Perspective

Mr. Jim Strickland

Strickland Ranch



Wrap-up, Survey & Explore

Chad Allison

Program Manager Central Florida Regional Planning Council

