



## WHAT WILL YOUR CONSERVATION LEGACY BE?

All projects listed here are priorities on the Florida Forever list and are eligible for Water and Land Conservation Amendment funds.



"End of the Trail," Cross Florida Greenway  
by John Moran/JohnMoranPhotography.com

### **Wekiva-Ocala Greenway**

*Water quality, wildlife habitat and corridor*

Just north of Orlando, the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway is a critical corridor full of rich and diverse habitats, including forested pinelands and floodplain that are home to the largest black bear population in Florida and many other unique species. Once complete, the 440,000-acre Greenway will provide vital connectivity between the Ocala National Forest, Blue Spring State Park, Hontoon Island State Park, Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park, Seminole State Forest, and Wekiva Springs State Park. It will also keep the area safeguarded from development pressure, help preserve the water integrity of the Wekiva and St. Johns Rivers, protect important floodplain, and expand community recreational areas.

Counties: Lake, Orange, Seminole, Volusia



By Mark Long

### **Florida's First Magnitude Springs**

*Water quality, drinking water supply, springs, rivers*

Florida boasts the largest concentration of continuously flowing "first magnitude"\* freshwater springs in the world. This project would protect lands that surround 33 of our largest springs, buffering them from urban, agricultural, and mining pollution that not only harms water visibility and wildlife habitat, but also threatens our drinking water supplies. Nearly 40 percent of the First Magnitude Springs project area has yet to be protected, leaving them vulnerable to pollution.

Counties: Bay, Hamilton, Hernando, Jackson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Wakulla, Walton, Washington

\* "First magnitude" springs have an average flow of 100 cubic feet of fresh water per second or more.



"Couple of Wood Storks," by Larry Goodwin (Flickr)

### **Pine Island Slough**

*Water quality, wetlands protection, wildlife habitat, rare species*

Like a river of grass, this slough filters water that slowly flows through it and into the Kissimmee River. This freshwater, inland marsh provides habitat and food for the whooping crane, snail kite, and many other sensitive species. This project would protect nearly 49,000 acres from development and conserve it for the enjoyment of generations to come. Protecting Pine Island Slough would create one of the largest conservation networks in the state, protected by a partnership of agencies and each accessible to the public. None of the Pine Island Slough project has been protected.

Counties: Osceola, Indian River



"Seminole Ranch Dawn," by Carlton Ward

### **Adams Ranch**

*Native prairies, rare species*

The open spaces of the Adams Ranch hold some of Florida's last open prairies and imperiled species that thrive there, including the gopher tortoise and eastern indigo snake. Protecting these lands from development will ensure the land is not fragmented and remains an intact wildlife area for migratory birds, white tailed deer, and bobcats. Nearly all of the 11,038-acre project area, including the open prairie, surface waters, and wetlands, plays an important role in recharging groundwater reserves. Yet most (94 percent) of the Adams Ranch lands remain unprotected.

Counties: Osceola



"Ancient Armored Dune Dweller on Patrol,"  
by Bob Peterson (Flickr)

## Lake Wales Ridge

*Groundwater recharge, drinking water supply, unique wildlife habitat, recreation*  
The Lake Wales Ridge, running along an ancient sand dune down the middle of the state, forms a mosaic of unique natural habitats that are home to species that can't be found anywhere else on earth. The sandy soils allow water to percolate into groundwater reserves that provide Central Florida's drinking water. This project would protect and restore almost 60,000 acres of land on the ridge for water supply protection and wildlife habitat while also providing public access for recreation, including the Florida National Scenic Trail. Thirty-nine percent of this project has yet to be protected.

Counties: Highlands, Lake, Osceola, Polk



"Paddlin' Home," by anoldent (Flickr)

## Lake Santa Fe

*Water quality, drinking water supply, wetlands protection, wading bird nesting*  
This project would protect the only remaining shoreline of Lake Santa Fe that supports wading bird nesting and resting, historic cypress fringe, swamp habitat, and mostly undisturbed wetlands. Building upon the Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area, it would protect the surface headwaters of the Santa Fe and Lake Alto swamps through prevention of further development and septic input. The Florida National Scenic Trail is also planned to cross this project, providing hiking and other recreational opportunities. Less than 1 percent of the project's 10,387 acres have been protected.

Counties: Alachua, Bradford



"Bear Cub Peeking Around Tree," Florida Fish & Wildlife (Flickr)

## Bear Hammock

*Wildlife habitat and corridor, outdoor recreation*  
Bear Hammock would provide a connector between Goethe State Forest and the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, creating a continuity of more than 200,000 acres. Completion of this project would provide habitat for threatened wildlife, including the Florida black bear, wood stork, bald eagle, and gopher tortoise. The area contains seven lakes, ranging from shallow ponds ideal for wading birds to sandy bottomed clear water lakes that could provide paddling, sailing, fishing, and swimming opportunities. None of the project's 4,685 have been protected.

Counties: Marion



Florida Scrub Jay by Mwaner (Wikipedia)

## Bombing Range Ridge

*Wildlife habitat and corridor, outdoor recreation*  
Acquisition of Bombing Range Ridge would conserve and protect significant habitat for at least 20 rare and native species including the Florida scrub jay and red-cockaded woodpecker. This 39,000 acre project, composed of flatroods, marshes, swamps and hammocks would connect several public lands and provide the public with recreational trails, primitive camping, fishing, canoeing and hunting. Acquisition of Bombing Range Ridge would help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail. Bombing Range Ridge was placed on the Florida Forever Priority List in 1998 and to date, only 30% has been acquired.

Counties: Polk, Highlands, Osceola