



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.



Shark Valley Observation Deck

The Everglades

Drinking water supply, wildlife habitat, rare species, recreation

Recognized worldwide as a unique and treasured landscape, the Everglades is a vast network of sawgrass marshes, cypress swamps, pine rockland, and mangroves comprising the largest subtropical wilderness in North America. The Everglades is the primary source of drinking water for more than 7 million people—more than one third of Florida’s population—and is home to an extraordinary diversity of animals, including threatened species like the Florida panther, countless wading birds, and the iconic alligator. In 2000, Congress passed the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), putting in motion the largest and most ambitious ecosystem restoration plan in the country. CERP sets forth more than 60 different projects to restore ecosystems, provide flood protection, and ensure clean and abundant water supplies for South Florida's residents. Decades remain before completion.

Panther Glades

Florida panther, Florida black bear, habitat connections, recreation

From cypress domes hardwood swamps in the south, the Panther Glades project stretches north through a mosaic of forested hammocks, cypress domes, and wetland meadows. Spanning almost 19 miles south to north, and at its widest, 9 miles east to west, completion of this project would ensure a large landscape of mostly contiguous habitat, which is essential for wildlife like the Florida panther, Florida black bear, and swallow-tailed kite, which require extensive undeveloped areas to survive. Keeping Panther Glades intact also protects the surface flow of water connecting lands to the south. Forty percent of Panther Glades remains unprotected.

Counties: Hendry

Devil's Garden

Florida panther, Florida black bear, habitat connections, recreation

Acquisition of this project will fill a critical gap in the Florida wildlife corridor which protects the Florida panther, Florida black bear and several more threatened and endangered native species. This property would also help to complete the Florida National Scenic Trail and allow for a diverse range of recreational activities, including camping, picnicking, hiking, wildlife observation, bicycling, and horseback riding. To date, none of the 83,000 acres have been acquired.

Counties: Collier, Hendry

Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed

Florida panther, Florida black bear, habitat connections, water supply

The large, interconnected swamps of southwest Florida must be preserved if such wildlife as the Florida panther and black bear are to survive. The Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) will connect three conservation areas and protect the flow of water feeding the Florida Panther National Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand and the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. To date, less than half of the 70,000 acres have been protected.

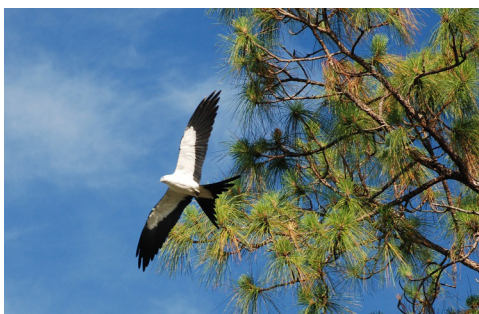
Counties: Collier, Lee



Florida Panther Kittens,
by Micahel Stone



Florida Black Bear



Swallow-tailed Kite
by Ken Grudens