Terra Ceia

Mangrove habitat restoration, fisheries restoration

The mangrove swamps on the islands and mainland around Terra Ceia Bay are some of the last undisturbed natural areas left on the southeast shore of Tampa Bay. The area is critical to protecting and restoring mangrove habitat and seagrasses which ensure the health of manatees, local fisheries, and bird rookeries. Growth pressure in the area is intense, yet more than 50 percent of the Terra Ceia project has yet to be protected.

Counties: Manatee

Myakka Ranchlands

Regional connectivity, water storage and habitat protection

Expanding and buffering the diverse habitats along the state-designated "Wild and Scenic" Myakka River and the 110,000 acres of already protected land will benefit wildlife and people. Conserving ranchlands in critical locations will protect, restore and maintain the water quality, natural water flows, wetlands, and fisheries of the Myakka River and Charlotte Harbor, an estuary of national significance. The mix of high quality habitats will accommodate an array of wildlife from the gopher tortoise to the Florida panther as well as traditional Florida agriculture. Protection will also enhance recreational opportunities along the river and within adjacent parks and preserves. Over 20,000 acres need protection.

Counties: Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto

Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods

Hydrologic and habitat restoration

Acquisition of key parcels surrounding five waterways that flow from the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area to Charlotte Harbor will enable a regionally significant restoration initiative that will not only restore the flow of water through Charlotte County and into Charlotte Harbor, but will also reduce flooding in Lee County and the Caloosahatchee River watershed.

Counties: Charlotte, Lee

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 survivie. 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