




Florida Conservation Group Our Work

- We are a **landowner-led** conservation organization focusing on science based land protection and conservation incentives;
- We advocate for land conservation funding on state and federal level;
- Formed as a reflection of need for landowners to have a cohesive voice on state and federal level;
- Focus is **statewide**;
- Landowners sign on to our effort, lend their voices;
- We now have landowners representing over **3 million acres** that have lent their voices to our efforts;
- (State Level) RFLPP, Florida Forever; (Federal Level) LWCF, NRCS;
- We offer **program and scientific expertise**;
- **Tallahassee legislative visits**
- **District visits; ranch trips**, for state and federal legislators;
- **Press:** op-eds and profiles



Conservation Easements BENEFITS

- Ranchlands protect Florida's water and natural resources;
- Conservation Easements provide viable **OPTION** to conserve lands;
- Ranchlands protect drinking water supply and water quality to our urban areas
- These programs are the most cost-effective way to preserve our water resources;
- We can invest a little now or a **LOT** later to restore our watersheds;
- Protection of water resources for fraction of cost of outright purchase;
- Management costs responsibility of landowner;
- Programs are critical natural and water resources **AND** our food security and agricultural economy.



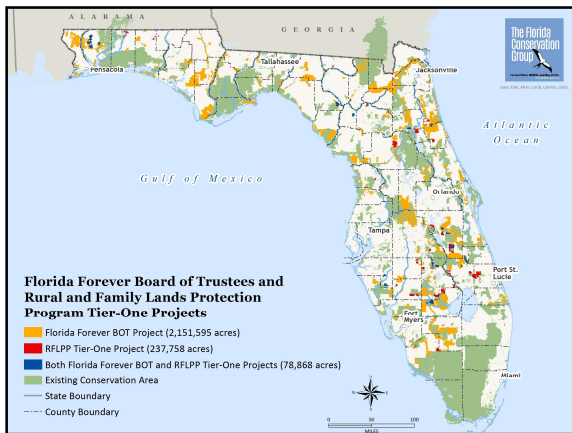
Focal Conservation Easement Programs

- Florida Forever: Fee simple and easements. High Resource Value
- Rural and Family Land Protection Program: Agricultural Easements (agricultural focus/flexible);
- NRCS: WRE Program: restorable wetlands
- FWS: Land and Water Conservation Fund: Fee simple and easements (for National Wildlife Refuges).
- REPI-easements (Partner Program with State/Local)
- NRCS ALE: Partner program: agricultural easements with State/Local

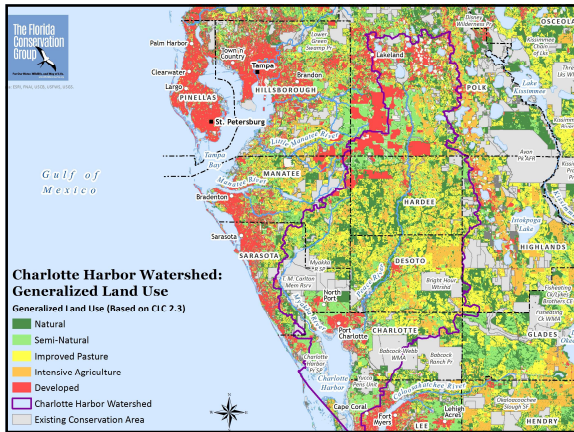
Others:

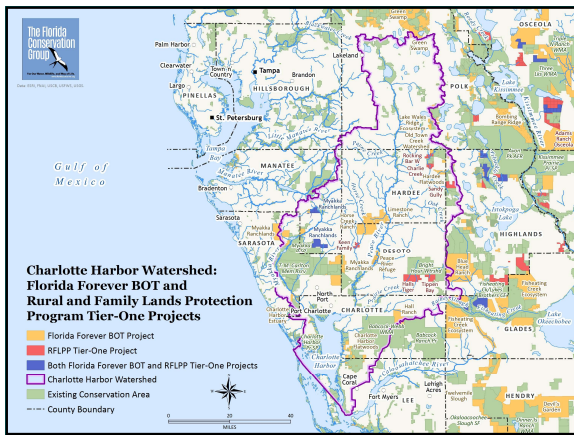
- Water Management Districts
- County Programs
- Forest Legacy

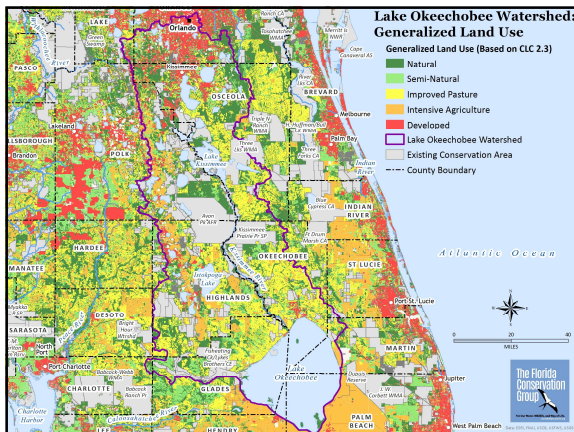


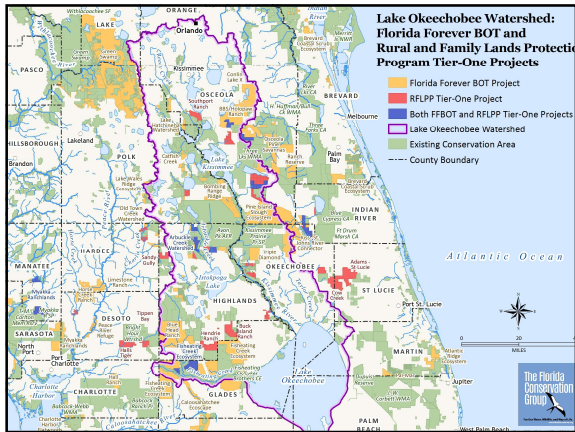


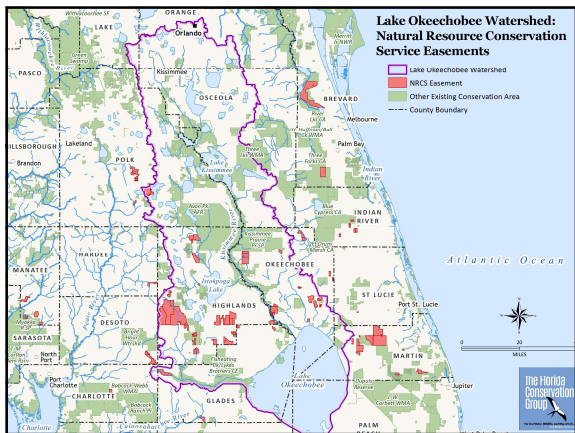













Conservation Easements

- Personal and Business Decision;
- Is an Easement Right for you? It may not be!
- How do I get started? Reach out to the programs, a program expert; learn about the different programs;
- Program criteria: Land uses, resource values. Match the property to the program and your personal needs!



Conservation Easements

- Process: Applications, site visits, presentations, project advocacy; crafting language, appraisals, contract, cabinet approval (for state) etc;
- Process can take a long time (length varies on program);
- Appraisals: property valued at highest and best use, NOT for its conservation value!
- Needed: Land representative, attorney, CPA



THE GREAT UNKNOWN: Managing for uncertainty

- Dollars received need to maintain property forever;
- FAMILY and future ownership:
- Future Management: Exotics in a changing landscape, hydrology, burning, etc.;
- Future Development in region (and managing with surrounding development):
- Future Cow Prices



Politics and Funding Our current situation with Florida Programs

- Acres in Rural and Family Lands Protection Program Top Tier: **237,758** (all tiers: 373,311)
 - Current funding: 5.8 Million (last year was 10 Million)
- Current acres on Less-Than-Fee Florida Forever Project list: **696,959** (over 2 million acres total-including additional less-than-fee projects)
 - Current Funding: 77 million (last year was zero)
- Both RFLPP and Florida Forever conservation easements are NEEDED;
- RFLPP protects our food security and agricultural economy; Florida Forever protects our critical natural and water resources;
- Investment in Florida's Future and our quality of life.



Landowner Advocacy for Conservation Easement Funding

The Florida Conservation Group
www.floridaconserve.org

The Florida Conservation Group advocates on behalf of Florida landowners for conservation easement funding. Landowners are a critical voice in the fight to protect Florida's natural and cultural heritage.

We are looking for landowners to join and support our effort.

Florida's Land Conservation Programs
The Rural and Family Lands Protection Program and Florida Forever

The Rural and Family Lands Protection Program and Florida Forever are the state conservation programs that are critical to the health of the landscape. They both protect open space and provide the additional benefits of open space recreation, protection of natural resources, and wildlife habitat. Florida's natural and cultural heritage is at stake.

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Over 2 million acres conserved and protected
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THANK YOU

For more information please contact:
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floridaconserve.org

The Florida Conservation Group
For Our Water, Wildlife, and Way of Life.