



Report to the Commission



Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida
October 8, 2020

The Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida was created by the Florida legislature in 1994 to support the work of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Today we are providing an update on our work for the fiscal year 2020, which ended June 30, 2020.



FY 2020 Financial Summary

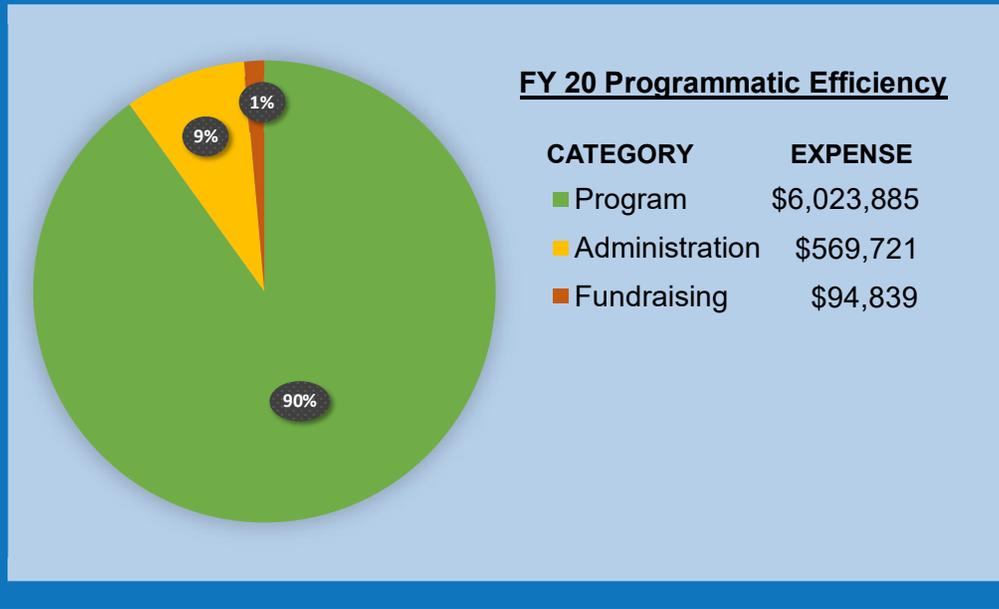
- Despite the pandemic, in the black for the **7th** straight year
- Since 1994, raised & donated more than **\$45 million**
- Guidestar's "**Platinum**" highest rating



Despite the economic effects of the pandemic and the need to postpone our annual "A Night for Nature" fundraising dinner, the Foundation still finished financially in the black. We continue to receive charity watchdog Guidestar's highest rating, "Platinum," for accountability and transparency.



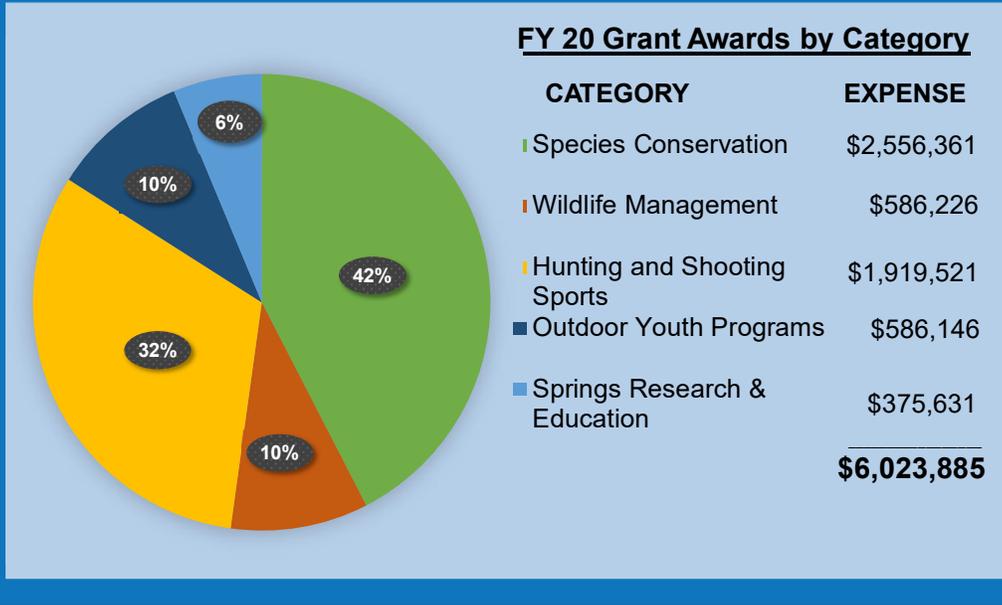
90% Programmatic Efficiency



90 cents of every dollar the Foundation receives is used for conservation and outdoor recreation and education programs. This is much higher than the 75% efficiency average across all nonprofits.



FY20 Grants



In FY20, the Foundation awarded \$6.0 million. 42% went to the conservation of non-game species and 10% to game species management (deer, turkey, etc.). Nearly a third of grants went to hunting and shooting sports and 10% to outdoor youth programs. Finally, 6% went for grants to a variety of organizations engaged in the conservation of Florida’s freshwater springs.



Notable Grants & Projects

\$340,024 for Florida Grasshopper Sparrows



\$264,902 for Coral Rescue from SCTLD



The notable programs we supported include captive breeding and release of North America's rarest bird, the Florida grasshopper sparrow. 150 captive-reared birds, released into the wild in 2019 and early 2020, had the opportunity to join the wild breeding population this spring. The success was outstanding – two-thirds of the successfully fledged sparrows came from nests with at least one parent being a captive-reared bird.

We also provided more than a quarter-million dollars of support for rescuing vulnerable corals from Stony Coral Rescue Disease. A rescue facility established by us, FWC, and several other partners now holds 37% of all rescued corals.



Notable Grants & Projects

\$81,059 for FL Bay Sponge Restoration



\$200,000 for Apalachicola WEA



Two new projects of note, we've committed to raising the private funds needed to begin FWC restoration of the sponge community, contributing \$81,000 over the past six months to allow FWC to begin outplanting 15,000 young sponges and grow another 15,000. FWC hopes to grow at least 60,000 sponges for transplant over the next five years.

Our Board of Directors also made a \$200,000 grant at FWC's request from our Wildlife Foundation of Florida tag to help FDEP acquire nearly 600 acres adjacent to the Apalachicola WEA, which will be open to hunting and other forms of outdoor recreation.



Notable Grants & Projects

\$229,535 for Youth Programs



Other grants:

- *Panthers and FLM*
- *Lake Trafford mussels*
- *Florida bonneted bat*
- *Brazilian pepper*
- *Burmese python control*
- *Chronic wasting disease*
- *Outdoor programs for veterans*
- *Manatee conservation*

\$6.0 million awarded to FWC & its partners

Finally, we contributed \$230,000 in major grants to the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network, part of the \$586,000 in total funds provided to the Network. These funds were scholarships, outdoor gear, and similar needs. The biggest project was what you see here – completion of funding for the volunteer-built ADA-compliant fishing pier and boardwalk at the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center in Apollo Beach. This was a joint project with the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance, local unions, and Pure Fishing, Inc. and was spearheaded by FWC staff Kathy Guindon, Rae Waddell and our own board member, Connie Parker.



FY 2021 Priorities

- Coral Restoration & **Coral Reef Conservation Fund**
- FL Bay Sponge Restoration
- FL Grasshopper Recovery

- Supporting the New FYCCN Vision
- Python & Invasives Control
- Disaster Relief

- Attract New Audiences
- Refine Grantmaking – conservation ROI

Going forward, we have a number of goals in FY21, continuing funding for both long-standing projects and several significant new projects. We also wish to restart efforts to create a coral reef conservation fund with South Florida businesses that will provide a predictable, increasingly large stream of private funding for coral restoration. This program has been the vision and was launched by Commissioner Spottswood, and we look forward to recruiting new partners as the pandemic recedes.



FY 2021 Priorities



And finally, we will soon be launching a redesigned "Conserve Wildlife" license plate, which supports FWC non-game species conservation work.



FWFF Update

Questions or Comments?

