

Private Lands Innovation Initiatives Update



April 2015

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation



This presentation provides an update on our private landowner initiative efforts.

Private Lands Strategic Initiatives

- Programs and Tools available to Landowners
- Locally-led Conservation
- Private Landowner-led Advisory Group
- Analysis of Programs that Work



The June 2014 strategic discussion of conservation approaches on private lands resulted in the identification of several strategies that FWC staff would initiate to enhance our fish and wildlife conservation partnerships with private landowners across Florida.

Examples include:

- Creation of a one-stop shop for landowners interested in technical or financial assistance
- Promoting and facilitating locally-led conservation
- Instigating a private landowner-led advisory group
- Conducting an analysis of our private landowner conservation programs

Current Programs and Initiatives

- ✓ Outreach and Education
- ✓ Technical Assistance
- ✓ Conservation Planning
- ✓ Conservation Partnerships
- ✓ Private Lands Innovation Initiatives
- ✓ Assessment and Evaluation



This update will include:

- Our efforts related to outreach and education
- Technical assistance and conservation planning services we provide to private landowners
- Efforts to enhance existing conservation partnerships and build new ones
- Our newly formed Private Lands Innovation Strategic Initiative Team
- Our efforts to date to evaluate our Landowner Assistance Program

Outreach and Education

Florida Land Steward Partnership

- ✓ Coordinated Website
- ✓ Calendar of Events
- ✓ Newsletter
- ✓ Workshops and Field Days

Creating a One-Stop Shop for Private Landowners



FWC has partnered with the Florida Forest Service, the Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences at the University of Florida, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service to form the Florida Land Steward Partnership. Our goal for this partnership is to create a one-stop shop for private landowners interested in technical or financial assistance programs.

Florida Land Steward
Have Land? Get a plan and stay connected.
Your source for assistance, information, events and resources.

Home | Links | Contacts

Planning For The Future Of Your Land | Knowing Your Land | Working Your Land | Protecting Your Land | Who Are We?

Upcoming Events (link)
flsteward@flsteward.org
Wednesday, March 11

Monday, March 16
9:00am Starting a Successful Hye

Tuesday, March 17
+ 4:30pm Starting a Successful Hye

Friday, March 20
9:00am Starting a Successful Hye

Saturday, March 21
+ 4:30pm Starting a Successful Hye

Thursday, April 23
9:00am Forest Stewardship Tour

Events shown in this zone
Eastern Time

Welcome to the Florida Land Steward
Welcome to a growing network of landowners, extension agents, public and private natural resource professionals and others involved with Florida private lands. The mission of the Florida Land Stewardship Partnership is to help and encourage private landowners to manage their lands for long-term environmental, economic and social benefits.

To view the Florida Land Steward Newsletter [click here](#).

Quick Links

UF IFAS UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

News & Information
FLORIDA LAND STEWARD UPDATE NEWS
SIGN UP FOR WETLAND, AGRICULTURAL
LAND CONSERVATION GRANTS
Applications are...
FLORIDA LAND STEWARD UPDATE NEWS
NEW ISSUE OF SFE FIRE LINES
NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE IN 300.

The Florida Land Steward Partnership provides information and technical assistance to landowners. This information is conveyed in a variety of media forms. Program partners also coordinate workshops, tours, field days, and other trainings.

In our current private landowner survey, we are asking landowners if they are aware of the Florida Land Steward Partnership, and if that effort has led to more of a one-stop shop.

Technical Assistance

- Pro-active
- Science-based
- Solution-oriented



**Wildlife Viewed as an Asset –
Not a Liability**



Our guiding principles for technical assistance delivery include working pro-actively, providing science-based information and being solution-oriented.

Over the last 5 years, we have averaged assisting approximately 600 landowners with 200,000 acres per year through our Landowner Assistance Program. The technical assistance we provide can vary widely from one landowner to the next and across different project types.

A desired outcome from our technical assistance to private landowners is that they view wildlife, including imperiled species, as an asset instead of a liability.

Conservation Stewardship Plan



James Landowner Tract:
Any County, Florida
February 23, 2011

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Dir's Conservationist, District Conservationist
32963 U.S. Hwy.
Anytown, FL 32900 (888) 668-6868

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Ricky Brantley, Wildlife Biologist
1284 SW 54th St., Suite 101
Anytown, FL 32900 (888) 668-6868

Florida Division of Forestry
Brian Forester, County Forester
1284 SW 54th St.
Anytown, FL 32900 (888) 668-6868



Map of Florida showing land management zones and project locations. Includes a callout box showing a meeting.

FWC staff provides a wide variety of conservation planning services for landowners. In some instances, FWC staff work with local governments and private landowners that are planning future development. This area of engagement with Florida’s private landowners, local and state environmental agencies and stakeholders is where our most challenging issues and opportunities are found.

We are currently working on 11 sector planning type projects that encompass almost 550,000 acres throughout the state.

Conservation Partnerships

➤ 80-20 Rule

- ❖ Florida Land Steward Partnership
- ❖ Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative

➤ Leveraging Resources

- ❖ Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- ❖ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ❖ US Fish and Wildlife Service

➤ Building Trust

- ❖ Private Landowner Survey
- ❖ Law Enforcement Outreach



Our desired outcome is conservation partnerships with private landowners. Our staff that work with private landowners are building these partnerships by applying the 80-20 rule, focusing first and foremost on the common interest and values we share with private landowners and other conservation agency staff.

We recognize that in spite of our efforts to date, trust remains a significant barrier to building relationships with private landowners. We are reaching out to private landowners through our Private Landowner Survey and a new Division of Law Enforcement Initiative to better understand their challenges and needs.



Some of our new private landowner initiatives such as wildlife Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Private Lands Deer Management Program are showing promise. Current enrollment in the wildlife BMPs for forestry activities exceeds 1.1 million acres, and the wildlife BMPs for agriculture are currently going through rule making. In addition, 8 landowners with 556,047 acres are participating in the new Private Lands Deer Management Permit Program

We believe that this success stems from working closely with Florida's agriculture community and other stakeholders to develop these new programs.

Home | Conservation | Special Initiatives | Private Land Partnerships | Landowner Assistance Services

Landowner Assistance Program Services

Issues and Policies

Value of Conservation

How You Can Conserve

Freshwater Programs

Saltwater Programs

Terrestrial Programs

Federal Aid

Special Initiatives

- Wildlife Jobs
- Coastal Wildlife
- Conservation Workshops
- Private Land Partnerships
- Managing Your Land
- Advocates
- We Work With You

How We Work With You

Here are private landowner tools available through and/or supported by the FWC's Landowner Assistance Program (LAP).

Education and Outreach | Land Conservation | Property Tax Incentives | Technical Assistance | Financial Assistance | Assessment Programs | Other Communities | Acquisition Programs

Program	Purpose
Educational and Outreach	
Habitat Management Workshops and Field Days	Offered year-round to the public. Provides educational information and learning opportunities about habitat management. LAP staff helps organize and implement at least 18 workshops statewide every year. If interested in attending a workshop or field day, please visit the website and/or contact an LAP biologist.
Private Forest Steward Newsletter	The newsletter is produced quarterly and intended to provide landowners with current and useful information on land management from a multiple-use perspective. The newsletter is free of charge.
Wildlife Habitat Management Calendar	The calendar provides monthly habitat management tips and reminders for landowners in Florida. Visit the web link to download a copy or contact an LAP biologist to request a hardcopy.
Economic Data Information Source (LAP/PAE Economic)	A collection of information on topics relevant to you: profitable and sustainable agriculture, our environment and natural resources, youth programs, FL-friendly landscapes, and much more. Try a search.
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Land Conservation	
Conservation Easements of Conservation Easements	A voluntary option for conserving your property forever. LAP staff can provide information on local land trusts available to help landowners explore easement options.
Private Forest Program	A conservation land buying program administered by the Division of State Lands. LAP biologists can assist with evaluation of specific areas targeted for acquisition.
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Property Tax Incentives	
DR - 410 (Conservation Easement)	This law provides full property tax exemption for land dedicated as perpetuity and used exclusively for conservation purposes. Applications and supporting documents are due to your property appraiser before March 1 st .
D.S. - 822 (Conservation Assessment)	This law provides a partial property tax exemption (up to 50%) for conservation land that is used for commercial purposes such as Agriculture. Applications and supporting documents are due to your property appraiser before March 1 st .



Private Landowner Wildlife Habitat Monitoring Survey Results and Wildlife Assistance Resources

Scott Sanders, Jim Stanger, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Mark D. Wilson, William B. Sullivan, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida

UF FLORIDA

FWC has a number of programs and initiatives that have been designed to assist, support and recognize private landowners and their efforts to conserve Florida's fish, wildlife and habitat resources. However, we recognize that we have much room for improvement.

In 2008, FWC, working with staff of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida, conducted the first Private Landowner Wildlife Habitat Survey. Some key findings from that survey included:

Demographics: Statewide, landowners held an average of 1,129 acres. Agriculture was the primary land use for 71% of these landowners, followed by development (20%) and recreation (9%).

Interest in wildlife: Sixty-eight percent of landowners believe their land management activities benefit wildlife, and 58% of landowners said they actively manage their properties for wildlife.

In 2011, we re-surveyed. Fifty-seven percent of landowners reported managing their properties to benefit wildlife, primarily for game species and habitat. We learned that 25% of landowners had conducted prescribed burns during the last five years.

We are currently working with the University of Florida to conduct the survey again this year.

Private Lands Innovation Challenges

- Building Trust
- What does Success Look Like?
- How Shall We Measure Success?



We are pursuing the strategy of a landowner-led advisory group and we are asking questions in our current private landowner survey that are intended to help us better understand the trust issue. Instigating a private landowner led advisory group is an initiative that we could use your help with.

In addition, we are still trying to determine the best measures of success when it comes to working with private landowners on fish and wildlife conservation.