



WITH THE WILD WE STAND

FISH & WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION
OF FLORIDA

2021 IMPACT REPORT



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Since 1994, the nonprofit Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida has worked with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and its partners to ensure Florida remains a place of great natural diversity and beauty. We are deeply engaged in the conservation of Florida's iconic wildlife and critical habitats, on land and sea. Thanks to our many donors, we are also Florida's largest private funder of outdoor education for children and teens, and we help ensure continued public access to traditional outdoor recreation.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As Chairman, I want to thank you on behalf of our amazing Board of Directors and incredible staff for your support during this difficult year. Despite the pandemic and several environmental crises that were years in the making, we continued to help advance conservation and outdoor recreation in 2021, raising and distributing \$5 million statewide for a variety of needs.

Photo by Carlton Ward Jr.

In these endeavors, we also have many private and public partners to thank. 2021 marked the second year of our work with **SeaWorld** and **Disney Conservation** to protect nearly 700 corals rescued from death as stony coral tissue loss disease swept through the lower Keys. These corals and others saved by the **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)** and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** are being bred to maximize their resilience to disease and other stresses and their progeny will be eventually returned to the reef by the tens of thousands. We can't thank SeaWorld and Disney enough for their leadership and combined \$1.1 million commitment to date.

Late in the year, **Florida Power & Light (FPL)** and the **NextEra Energy Foundation** donated \$120,000 to the Foundation to buy and build a sixth manatee rescue truck for FWC. The gift is part of FPL's \$700,000 commitment to protect manatees, particularly in the Indian River Lagoon, where hundreds succumbed to starvation in 2021.

Additional great work came in 2021 via The Florida Conservation Solutions Fund. Created in 2018 by a \$1 million, multi-year pledge from **Mr. John L. Morris** and **Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund**,

the Solutions Fund provides critical support to conservation in south Florida. Bald cypress and seagrass replanting along the Loxahatchee River, marine sponge restoration in Florida Bay, and endowing a permanent conservation easement on 27,000 acres in the Everglades headwaters were all accomplished this year thanks to Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's generosity.

Key West-based **Spottswood Companies** also kicked off our Florida Coral Reef Conservation Fund by agreeing to donate \$1 dollar for every guest who stays at the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel. Over time, we hope to attract many other partners to generate \$1 million per year for coral reef restoration.

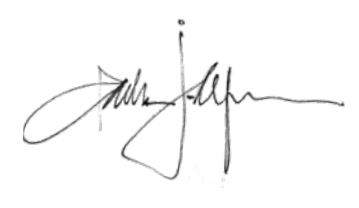
In all, 70 businesses and charitable foundations supported our work this year, in addition to the thousands of private individuals who donated to various programs. Many supported *A Night for Nature*, our fundraising dinner held outdoors in Jupiter at which we honored **Jack Nicklaus, Paul Tudor Jones II, and Joe Neber of Contender Boats** for their lifelong dedication to Florida conservation and the welfare of youth. Principal sponsors **Daphne and C. Martin Wood III, Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Corbett, The Mosaic Company, FPL, Ximena Kavalekas, Inc., Mr. Mark Dalton, Mr. John**

Lacy, Mrs. Sonia and Mr. Paul T. Jones II, Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel, Mrs. Barbara and Mr. Jack Nicklaus, Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund, and the Barco Family Foundation led the way in helping us raise \$800,000 in one evening for a wide array of youth and conservation programs.

What these companies, foundations, and individuals know is that our state's wildlife and natural landscapes must be actively managed using the latest scientific information and management technologies to ensure they're not loved to death by the many millions of residents and visitors who come here from around the world. With their continued support and your own, we can keep Florida wild. *Thank you!*



Carlos Alfonso
Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



2021 was another dramatic year in conservation, as in so much else.

The Florida manatee made headlines worldwide when seagrass loss in the Indian River Lagoon caused hundreds of manatees to starve. Stony coral tissue loss disease reached the Dry Tortugas, the last disease-free bastion of the 360-mile Florida reef tract. Previously undocumented diseases also afflicted freshwater turtles, bobcats, and Florida panthers. Red tide reappeared along the Gulf Coast and lingered around Tampa Bay. And phrases like “coastal resilience” entered common usage as communities adapted to rising sea levels and storms of increasing intensity.

But civic leaders and conservationists weren’t idle. The Governor committed \$53 million to improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon. The legislature allocated \$8 million in emergency funds to improve manatee habitat. FWC and its partners are about to breed 2,000 rescued stony corals for greater resilience to disease and other threats. Promising technologies for mitigating red tide are being tested. And although manatees and panthers face new challenges, their overall story, as with Florida black bears, is a happy one—iconic Florida species whose numbers have significantly increased over the past few decades.

Thanks to the support of people like you, our Foundation has played a key role in all of this. We are often able to provide immediate funding in the early, crucial days of an environmental crisis, as well as investing in long-term, proactive conservation strategies to prevent crises.

Much of this work is outlined in this impact report. If you are a Foundation supporter, thank you! Our success is your success. If you are new to us, please consider joining our work at wildlifeflorida.org. Together we can ensure Florida is a place of clean air, clean water, vast beauty, and abundant wildlife.



Andrew Walker
President & CEO



Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)

A wide-angle landscape photograph capturing a serene sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sun is positioned low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water's surface. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, some of which are illuminated by the low sun. In the foreground, there is a dense field of green reeds and grasses. The middle ground features a line of palm trees and other vegetation along the water's edge. A single, tall palm tree stands prominently on the right side of the frame, its silhouette clearly visible against the sky. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

The nonprofit Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida is dedicated to conserving Florida's iconic wildlife and the lands and waters they need to survive. We work closely with FWC, for which we are a citizen support organization, and its many public and private partners. Since 1994, we have raised and distributed more than \$55 million for conservation and youth outdoor education and recreation.

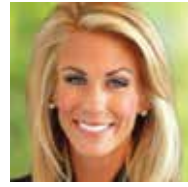
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A LIFELONG LOVE OF WILD FLORIDA

Foundation Board member and Miami native Ignacio Borbolla spent his youth exploring the waters and landscapes of south Florida. While fishing off of Miami's docks, seawalls, and bridges, his grandfather shared stories of Cuba, including having the fastest boat in the yacht club with a top speed of 12 knots.

As both he and his passion for fishing grew, Ignacio began competing in local tournaments and angling in the Bahamas. He became a licensed captain, mastering both Florida and Bahamian waters.

His grandfather also helped him purchase his first shotgun, which he still owns, to hunt doves in open fields in west Dade County that are now shopping centers. He still loves to flush quail and pheasant, joined by his Spanish Burgos pointer Tio. "During my childhood, getting outdoors was accessible and easy, all you needed was a simple rod and reel to catch dinner from docks and piers. And you could access hunting fields a short walk from your neighborhood," shared Ignacio.

These formative experiences on the seawall with his grandfather and father remain central to his identity, instilling a commitment to keeping wild Florida accessible to all. His wife Letty shares his passion for nature. In addition to his six years of service with the Foundation, Ignacio works with schools and local organizations to create the next generation of Florida conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts, particularly with the Christopher Columbus High School Angler Club.

"I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT TEACHING HOW CONSERVATION AND OUTDOOR RECREATION GO HAND-IN-HAND AND SUPPORTING THE FOUNDATION IS CENTRAL TO THAT WORK."

And following in his grandfather's footsteps, Ignacio and Letty have raised their children with a deep love and respect for conservation and responsible outdoor recreation.





FISHING FOR A CAUSE

Florida native Dani Cummings grew up fishing the waters of Tampa Bay. As an avid kayaker and angler, she spends much of her free time in the Keys or fishing near her home in St. Petersburg. Dani joined the Foundation in 2019 as the Director of Institutional Giving. “I wasn’t looking to make a change, but when I saw the position with the Foundation, combining my passion for Florida wildlife with my skills in fundraising, I knew it would be a fit,” Dani shared.

Dani holds a Bachelor’s degree in Marine Science from the University of Florida (UF), focusing her studies on sharks, and began her career in Gainesville fundraising for the Humane Society of North Central Florida. Since then she has helped several nonprofits with their advancement efforts, including UF. She is passionate about reading, knocking off 52 books from her list in 2021, traveling (a honeymoon trip is currently being planned), and teaching tricks to her adopted cats Phoebe and Oliver.

“I’M THRILLED TO HELP THE FOUNDATION CONSERVE WILD FLORIDA. EVERYDAY IS A NEW CHALLENGE, EXPOSING ME TO WILDLIFE AND HABITATS I NEVER KNEW ABOUT. I AM HONORED TO HELP SOLVE OUR STATE’S ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR HUNDREDS OF SUPPORTERS.”

In addition to her work with corporations and foundations, Dani also assists donors with estate planning and major gifts. She can be reached at dcummings@wildlifeflorida.org.

STAFF



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WHERE WE ARE

What do you love most about wild Florida? Our wildlife, rivers, lakes, and oceans? Our pine woods, prairies, and beaches? The Everglades and Florida Keys? Our nearly endless recreational opportunities? Whatever and wherever it is, we are committed to its preservation. We are Florida's community foundation for conservation, connecting donors and the public to the animals and landscapes they love.

In 2021, the Foundation raised and distributed \$5 million statewide to a variety of conservation, youth education, and outdoor recreation programs. Thousands of Floridians make this possible through their charitable gifts, purchase of one of our four specialty license plates, and in other ways.

What follows is a sampling of our 2021 work around the state that these donations make possible.



"Wildlife Foundation of Florida" license plate supports hunting, shooting sports, and management of habitat and is on 16,259 cars.



"Protect Florida Springs" plate supports the conservation of Florida's world-renowned freshwater springs and is on 10,668 cars.



The recently redesigned "Conserve Wildlife" plate benefits endangered and other non-game species and is on 15,712 cars.



"Discover Florida's Oceans" plate, helps fund marine conservation and education programs and is on 14,432 cars.

NORTH FLORIDA

With its secluded white sand beaches, red hills, ancient springs, longleaf pine forests, and grand live oaks, North Florida is an outdoor sportsman and sportswoman's paradise. It's also a biological crossroads where many northern and southern species overlap. Our Foundation has worked for years with FWC and other partners to conserve Florida black bears, reticulated salamanders, eastern indigo snakes, and other threatened species in the region. We also support outdoor learning and recreation at the Joe Budd and Ocala Youth Conservation Camps.



White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)



Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*)



Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*)

A NEW TAKE ON “SCARE-CROWS”

When you picture a scarecrow, do you see Ray Bolger from *The Wizard of Oz*, stuffed with straw on the Yellow Brick Road?

Northeast Florida now has literal scarecrows to protect beach-nesting birds, thanks to a \$45,517 *Conserve Wildlife* grant from the Foundation.

These scarecrows are previously deceased crows, not killed for this purpose, placed around the beach-nesting sites of least terns, American oystercatchers, and other colonial nesters. The freeze-dried crows are displayed to scare off other crows and predatory seagulls. FWC biologists also fenced the colonies to prevent disturbance by people and placed small “chick shelters” on the beach to further reduce predation from the skies.

The results were impressive. Amelia Island State Park fledged 40 least tern chicks, the first successful least tern nesting since 2015. Little Talbot Island State Park, one of Florida's most significant beach-nesting sites, hosted the second-highest number of oystercatcher chicks fledged there in the past 10 years. At Sawpit Island, the “scare-crows” allowed nesting in an area that previously experienced heavy predator activity. And Julia's Island also saw a marked increase in fledged least tern, oystercatcher, and Wilson's plover chicks. FWC biologists are eager to test these methods again in 2022.



Least tern (*Sternula antillarum*)



Least tern nest



SPRINGS SEMESTER IS UNDERWAY

Florida possesses some 700 freshwater springs, more than any other spot on Earth.

Springs Field School, run by long-term Foundation partner the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute, is one of the most advanced freshwater education programs offered in the southeastern United States. Regularly attended by educators, politicians, and other civic leaders, the Field School has been enormously effective at educating policymakers across the state. Attendees receive a comprehensive understanding of

the ecology, hydrogeology, biodiversity, and chemistry of our springs, as well as the challenges they face from nearby development, nutrient pollution, and invasive species. Thanks to a \$10,555 *Protect Florida Springs* grant from the Foundation, the School was able to provide springs education to a record number of participants in 2021.

The teachers and policymakers participating this year visited the Santa Fe River and the Ichetucknee Springs to participate in water sampling and other fieldwork. One student spoke for many in saying she enjoyed being made aware of present conditions and how Florida's springs can be protected or restored.

“I WISH I HAD BETTER UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED FLORIDA’S SPRINGS BACK IN THE 1960’S AND 70’S WHEN MANY OF THEM WERE IN BETTER CONDITION.”

REMOVING BARRIERS FOR NEW HUNTERS

Hunting can have many barriers to first-timers, especially women: where to go, how to shoot, what are the rules, and whom to go with. **The Gator Gobblers, an Alachua County-based chapter of The National Wild Turkey Federation**, was established in 2011 by Missie Schneider to address these barriers, conserve wild turkeys, and preserve America's hunting heritage.

Over the past decade they've introduced hundreds of Floridians to hunting, including many women and youth. In 2021 our Foundation supported them with a \$13,000 grant from our *Wildlife Foundation of Florida* specialty license plate, commonly known as the deer plate.

Foundation Grants Program Administrator Anita Forester (lower photo on right) participated in a hunt in 2021 at the 3,000-acre Little Orange Creek Preserve. As a novice, Anita was taught gun safety and allowed to practice at the range. Later in the day, Anita and Missie spent hours in a tree stand. Right before sunset, a large boar appeared in a clearing about 85 yards away. Anita took a perfect shot; she kept some meat and donated the rest to Gator Gobblers.

“TENT CAMPING, WAKING BEFORE DAYLIGHT, BEING IN THE TREE STAND AS THE SUN RISES, AND MAKING EVERY ATTEMPT TO BLEND IN WITH THE NATURAL WORLD IS THE BEST PART OF HUNTING.”

“Participating in the program was a huge benefit to me personally and professionally. I really appreciated seeing the Gator Gobblers' process and spending time with Missie,” said Anita.



NORTH FLORIDA 2021 GRANTS LIST

PROJECT NAME	PLATE	AMOUNT AWARDED	RECIPIENT
Diamondback Terrapin Bycatch in Blue Crab Traps and Impacts of Bycatch Reduction Devices on Commercial Landings of Marketable Crabs	CWT	\$103,752	FWC
Modify Dumpsters to be Bear-resistant	CWT	\$60,000	Local communities via FWC
Continued Monitoring of Turtle Bunyavirus and Refinement of Tissue Submission Guidelines for Diagnostic Validity–Phase 2	CWT	\$25,000	FWC
Scaring Bears Out of Communities	CWT	\$27,744	FWC
Fertilizer and Aquifer Actions Behavior Change Campaign	PFS	\$20,000	Alachua County
Determining Changes in Utilization of Ocklawaha River System by Manatees in Response to Environmental Declination in Other Manatee Use Areas	PFS	\$23,439	Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute
Florida Springs Field School 2022	PFS	\$14,000	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute
Monitoring Manatee and Recreational Use of the Silver River	PFS	\$16,388	Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute
Springs Protection and Manatee-Monitoring through Citizen Science and Educational Outreach in the Springs Heartland	PFS	\$8,300	Alachua County
Simple Things for Our Springs Phase III	PFS	\$20,794	Alachua Conservation Trust
Identifying sources of changing water chemistry in the Upper Floridan Aquifer	PFS	\$22,143	University of South Florida
Santa Fe Springshed Troglotic Surveys	PFS	\$14,000	Alachua County
Operation Outdoor Freedom–Blackwater Food Plots 2022	WFF	\$5,500	Florida Forest Service
Youth Dove, Quail, Squirrel, Turkey and Wild Hog Hunting	WFF	\$4,000	FWC
The Coldwater Nationals 3 Day Field Trial	WFF	\$8,500	The Coldwater Nationals
Operation Outdoor Freedom CONTINUATION Blackwater female dorm construction	WFF	\$25,000	Florida Forest Service
Sixth Annual Rumble In The Swamp Youth Small Game Hunt With Hounds & Clay Shooting Outdoors Weekend	WFF	\$4,500	Southeastern Dog Hunters Association
Apalachicola National Forest Clean Up Day 2022	WFF	\$1,000	Southeastern Dog Hunters Association
Hunt 4 Halee Youth Deer Hunt	WFF	\$4,500	Seasons Of Hope Outdoors, Inc
FWC/NWTF/FFS Wild Turkey Cost Share Program	WFF	\$25,000	National Wild Turkey Federation
ALLOUT Adventure Outreach and Mobility Program 22	WFF	\$25,000	Florida Disabled Outdoors Association

PROJECT NAME	PLATE	AMOUNT AWARDED	RECIPIENT
Bringing It All Together	WFF	\$14,900	Tri-State Christian Fellowship
58th Annual 2022 Blackwater Fox Hunters Association Field Trial & Bench Show	WFF	\$6,000	Blackwater Fox Hunters Association
Increasing Targeted Hunter Participation in Monitoring for the Always Fatal Disease of Deer: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)	WFF	\$22,620	FWC
Rebooting Suwannee River Area Council Wallwood Scout Reservation Archery Program	WFF	\$7,155	Suwannee River Area Council Boy Scout of America
FHF's New Hunters Program for 2022-23 Hunting Season	WFF	\$15,000	The Future of Hunting in Florida, Inc.
Debris Removal from Wildlife Management Areas	WFF	\$1,000	Current Problems
Youth Buck N Rut Hunt 2022	WFF	\$2,500	Southeastern Dog Hunters Association
Title sponsorship of the Florida NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program) State Tournament	WFF	\$30,000	FWC

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS 29 — TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT \$557,735

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

RYAN MEYER

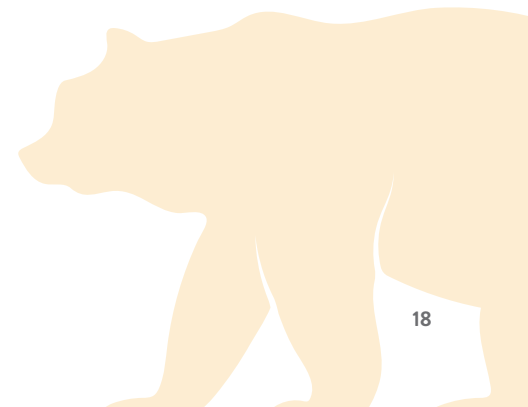


Panama City Beach is synonymous with waterfront restaurants, beautiful beaches, and spring breakers. Fine enough. But recent transplant Ryan Meyer wanted to show tourists the hidden side of PCB that he fell in love with just two short years ago.

Ryan's not an angler or hunter, but he is a cyclist. Marrying his love of coffee and a bacon, egg, and cheese bagel with a long morning bike ride, he founded Bikes, Bagels, & Brew and started offering bike tours to locals and Panhandle tourists.

It's proven highly successful—and educational: guests do not leave without a grounding in local flora and fauna. Ryan preaches precautions: do not feed the wildlife and leave no trace of your excursion behind. He says he likes to talk about the plants growing near the trails, the deer that run along the bike path, the winter habits of St. Andrews State Park's local alligators, and the resident population of Florida black bears. "When I tell people we have bears here, I get a lot of, 'Get out of here!' and, 'That's wild!'" Ryan says, noting 95% of his guests are tourists unfamiliar with the area. Ryan himself didn't grow up around bears but quickly developed a love for them.

In fact, the Florida black bear is Bikes, Bagels & Brew's mascot, symbolizing the importance of appreciating and conserving their habitat in the Panama City area. Ryan donates a percentage of his sales to the Foundation on behalf of conserving black bear habitat.



CENTRAL FLORIDA

Subtropical weather makes itself increasingly felt as one moves south down the Florida peninsula. A country of lakes, cattle, and citrus runs east and west from the low central spine of the Lake Wales Ridge, Florida's ancient necklace of islands. Rolling hills dotted with oaks give way to slash pine-palmetto flats and dry prairies. Rivers run mostly south, some emptying into the Gulf, some to the Atlantic, and some due south. Many species are endemic to the region, from rare plants and insects to the Florida grasshopper sparrow. With a large and growing human population along the I-4 corridor and elsewhere, much of our work in central Florida focuses on habitat protection and restoration, and minimizing human-wildlife conflicts in concert with FWC and other partners.



Bay scallops (*Argopecten irradians*)



Northern crested caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)



Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*)

NORTH AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED BIRD TAKES NEW FLIGHT

2021 marked the third successful year for the captive breeding and release of Florida grasshopper sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*), North America's rarest bird. Confined to the dry prairies of south-central Florida, the grasshopper sparrow was rapidly approaching extinction before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and FWC decided to augment the dwindling population by breeding sparrows in captivity and releasing them into the few remaining wild populations.

Our Foundation has supported conservation of the sparrow for more than a decade and became a principal

funder of the breeding program when it was launched five years ago. Nearly 500 birds bred at White Oak Conservation near Jacksonville have been released into the wild in the last three years. In 2021, biologists confirmed that offspring produced by released birds had become breeders themselves, and 65 percent of the young that were produced in the wild came from nests that had at least one captive-reared parent.

The birds also have a new permanent address, thanks to the conservation of the 27,000-acre Destiny Ranch in Osceola County. A gift of land from Elisabeth DeLuca to the University of Florida, the now-named DeLuca Preserve will be managed as an agricultural and ecological research station. Ducks Unlimited holds a permanent conservation easement over the land, and our Foundation has made a \$200,000 commitment to

the project, which includes managing the sparrow population there. Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund contributed half of our commitment.

The DeLuca property includes 6,000 acres of high-quality prairie, one of the most threatened ecosystems in the country. Nearly half of the world's remaining breeding population of Florida grasshopper sparrows are there. Joining the sparrows are other rare and notable species like red-cockaded woodpeckers, sandhill cranes, northern crested caracaras, gopher tortoises, burrowing owls, eastern indigo snakes, and a rare skink. Florida black bears and panthers traverse the property, which also includes vast open wetlands and wet woodlands.



Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*)
photo by Carlton Ward Jr.



Photo by Carlton Ward Jr.

RESPONDING TO AN UNPRECEDENTED CRISIS

Manatees are a Florida success story. Over the past 30 years, protection measures and careful management by FWC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have allowed the manatee population to boom to more than 9,000 individuals. But decades of nutrient runoff and steadily declining water quality in the Indian River Lagoon precipitated a crisis for manatees in 2021. **Some 46,000 acres of seagrass there have been killed by severe outbreaks of cyanobacteria and algae.** “Eelgrasses are the lungs of the lagoon,” said Foundation Board Chair Carlos Alfonso. “Two-and-a-half acres of eelgrass can support as many as 100,000 fish and 100 million invertebrates, in addition to providing manatees with a crucial food source.”



Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*)

The seagrass that remains in the lagoon is sparse, and in 2021 manatees found little to eat. Hundreds died of starvation. In response, the state legislature approved an \$8 million emergency grant to improved manatee habitat statewide and the Governor allocated \$53 million to reduce nutrient pollution in the lagoon. But solutions, like problems, can take years to be fully felt. What to do in the meantime?

Our Foundation began by raising \$240,000 to replant seven eelgrass sites most likely to thrive. The replanted beds should expand rapidly and become an important food source for manatees. More than 150 individuals from across the country joined Bass Pro Shops and Cabela’s Outdoor Fund, the Coastal Conservation Association, the Coypu Foundation, the Arthur L. & Elaine V. Johnson Foundation, and Mr. Daniel Maltz in donating to the effort.

“HABITAT DEGRADATION AND LOSS IS THE MAIN THREAT TO THE MAJORITY OF OUR STATE’S PLANTS AND ANIMALS.”

“We’re elated so many donors have stepped forward, and we will continue supporting FWC’s restoration efforts in the lagoon,” said Foundation President & CEO Andrew Walker.

In mid-December, our Foundation pivoted to raising funds to provide emergency food for manatees. When the feeding trial ended in late March 2022, we had purchased more than 200,000 pounds of lettuce and other leafy vegetables for manatees in the lagoon.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

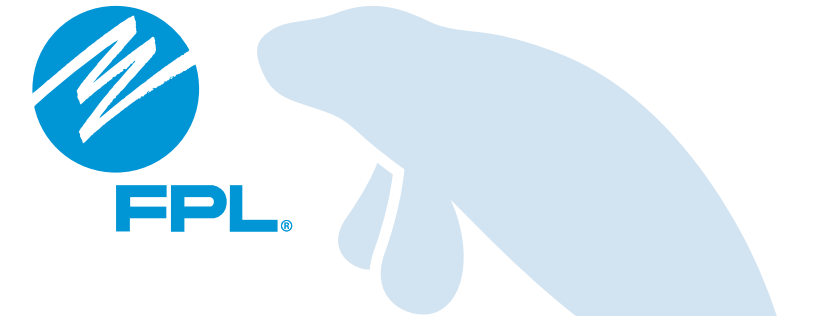
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT AND NEXTERA ENERGY

Florida Power & Light (FPL) and the NextEra Energy Foundation were vital donors to central Florida conservation in 2021, responding to the manatee crisis in Indian River Lagoon by committing \$700,000 over three years to support manatee rescue and rehabilitation and coastal and springs habitat restoration.

Late in 2021, FPL allowed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and FWC to create a temporary field station at their Cape Canaveral Clean Energy Center. Every winter, the thermal outflows from the energy center attract hundreds of manatees to the northern third of the lagoon. In 2022, FWC fed manatees at the field station to reduce starvation thanks to \$150,000 raised by the Foundation to purchase more than 55 tons of lettuce.

Manatees too emaciated and weak to even forage successfully on lettuce must be rescued and rehabilitated over a number of months. Anticipating another jump in the number of manatees requiring rescue in 2022, FPL and NextEra provided our Foundation with a **\$120,000 grant to buy and custom-build a sixth manatee rescue truck for FWC.** The truck was placed into action in early 2022.

Our Foundation has raised \$240,000 to replant eelgrass at seven sites in the Indian River Lagoon and watershed.



THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA'S CORALS LIES PARTLY IN ORLANDO

Coral reefs are central to the health and diversity of our oceans. In addition to providing a home for a quarter of all marine life, reefs regulate carbon dioxide levels in the water and prevent shoreline erosion by mitigating the effects of offshore currents and hurricanes. Florida's Coral Reef, the largest in North America, runs from Martin County to the Dry Tortugas. The 360-mile system has suffered many stresses in recent years, from extremes of temperature that can kill coral, excess salinity, invasive lionfish, and the mass die-off of sea urchins that keep the reef clear of algae.

In 2014 the worst threat yet appeared, **stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD)**. It spread across the entire reef in five years, attacking 22 of the 45 species of stony corals. In many areas, mortality for some coral species approached 100 percent.

More than 2,000 healthy stony corals were rescued in advance of the disease by FWC and NOAA and are being held in 21 facilities in 14 states.

Our Foundation operates the largest such facility in partnership with SeaWorld, Disney Conservation, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Located in Orlando and known as the Florida Coral Rescue Center, the facility will transition during the next two years into one of Florida's largest coral propagation programs, if we can secure the estimated \$2 million needed to expand the facility and staff. Corals will be bred to maximize their genetic diversity and resistance to disease and increasing temperature and salinity before being returned to the reef by the tens of thousands.

STONY CORAL TISSUE LOSS DISEASE PROGRESSION

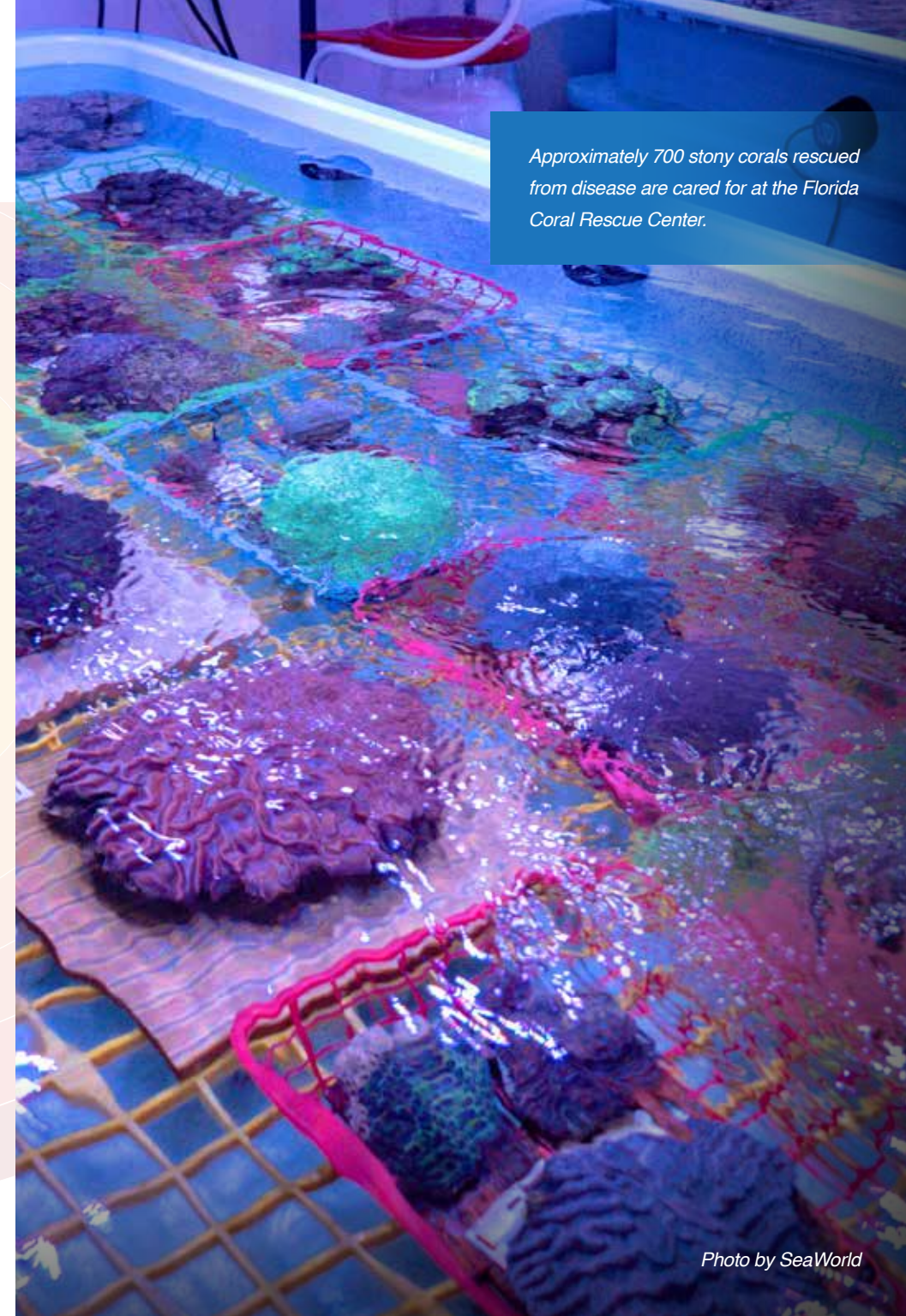
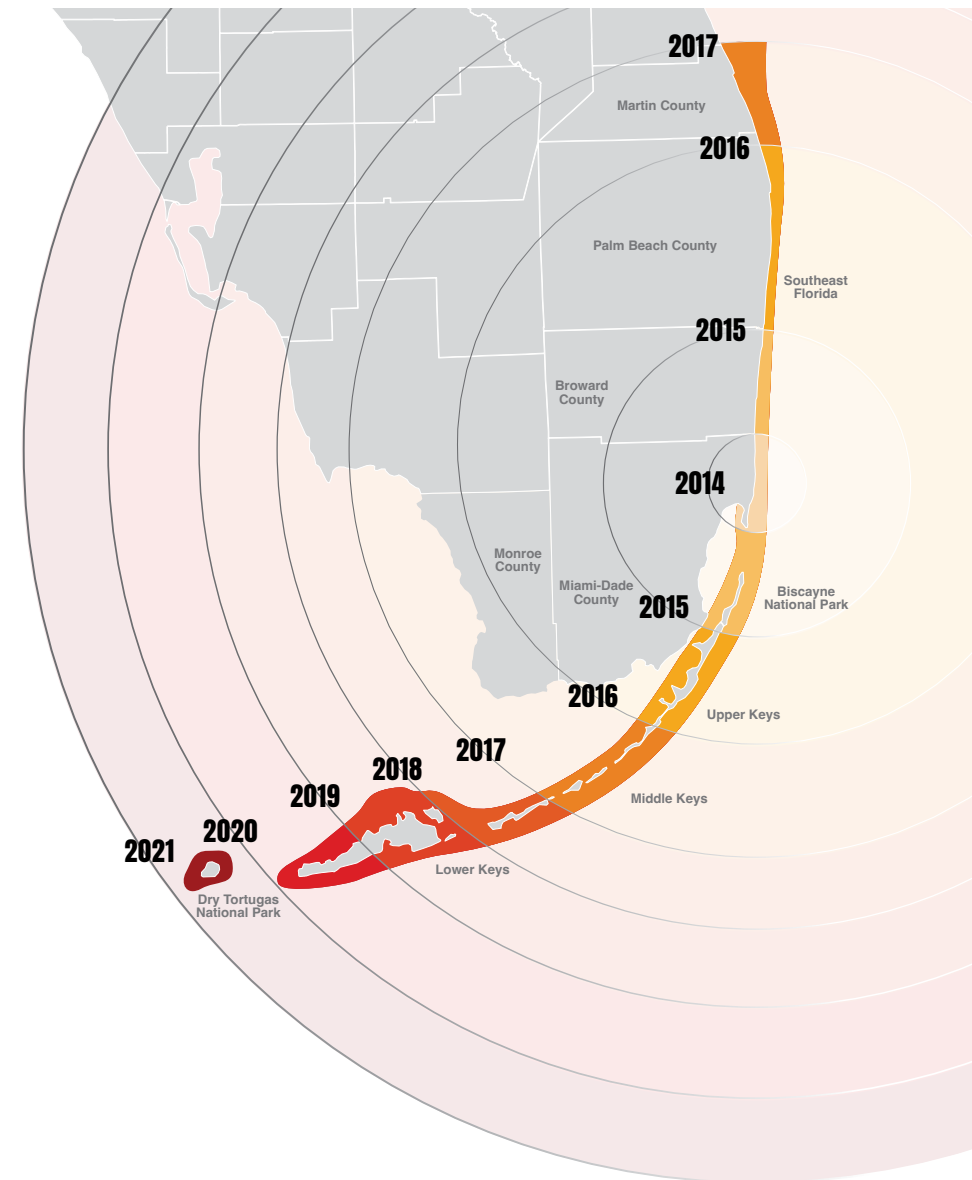


Photo by SeaWorld



RESTORING GRASSLANDS AND ENHANCING ARCHERY IN THE DUETTE PRESERVE

Manatee County's Duette Preserve is home to the headwaters of the Myakka River. It hosts weekend hunts and boasts a magnificent population of deer, turkey, quail, and an increasing number of endangered Florida scrub jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*). But the 21,000-acre preserve has required restoration of its understory on which so much of its wildlife depends.

Thanks to a \$28,000 grant from our *Wildlife Foundation of Florida* specialty license plate fund, Manatee County purchased 700 lbs. of native seeds and a new Grasslander seeder in 2021. Seed was also collected onsite and used to start a nursery, ensuring ongoing restoration—at least 10 acres/year—has a ready supply of seeds.

A portion of the grant was also used to renovate the Preserve's archery range and purchase new equipment. Response to the renovations has been strong: the preserve's archery hunts were sold out in 2021, a first.

RECENT SPRINGS STUDY REVEALS THE SHIFTING SANDS OF TIME

Florida’s famous springs share many characteristics: refreshing, clear, cool water, serene settings, and plentiful wildlife. **But a recent study by Stetson University revealed that no two springs are truly alike.** Thanks to a \$17,667 grant from our *Protect Florida Springs* specialty license plate fund, Stetson scientists took core samples at five springs that revealed secrets hiding in the geologic record.

Many scientists have assumed that Florida’s springs emerged as sea levels approached their modern position about 8,000 years ago. Stetson’s Foundation-funded study, however, has shown that Wekiwa Springs north of Orlando and Gilchrist Blue Springs northwest of Gainesville date to the last Glacial Period, more than 15,000 years ago. They served as watering holes for mastodons, mammoths, giant ground sloths, and other Paleolithic fauna. **These findings suggest many Florida springs may be significantly older than once thought.**

But not all: Stetson researchers found Otter Springs near Trenton, Florida to be young by contrast; the oldest core samples dated to 4,500 years ago, around the time the largest Egyptian pyramids were built.



In addition to variations in age, the sediment cores document for several springs the increasing presence of algae and sediment from human activity. The team next plans to examine the cores for ancient evidence of water lettuce, currently considered an invasive plant in Florida, but suspected by some to be native. If spotted, it could change how the plant is managed.

CENTRAL FLORIDA 2021 GRANTS LIST

PROJECT NAME	PLATE	AMOUNT AWARDED	RECIPIENT
Support for captive breeding of endangered Florida grasshopper sparrows	CWT	\$80,725	FWC
Educating the Public About Conservation and a Major Restoration of the Blue Spring State Park Headspring and Run	PFS	\$5,500	Friends of Blue Spring State Park
Evaluating and Analyzing Microplastics in Florida Springs	PFS	\$35,000	University of Central Florida
Evaluation of Common Snook Movement Patterns Associated with Thermal Refugia in Crystal River, Florida	PFS	\$34,099	FWC
Kings Bay SPRINGSWATCH	PFS	\$10,200	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute

PROJECT NAME	PLATE	AMOUNT AWARDED	RECIPIENT
Ecological Health and Recreation Assessment of the Rainbow Springs System	PFS	\$40,000	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute
Florida Springs Friendly Yards	PFS	\$7,000	Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute
Bow Fishing Expansion Program	WFF	\$10,676	Trinity Sportsman Ministries
Florida Frontiersmen Big Game 2	WFF	\$4,219	Florida Frontiersmen Inc
On Target Adaptive Archery	WFF	\$4,101	Lake Aurora Christian Assembly (Camp)
Camp La-No-Che Shooting Sports Programs	WFF	\$12,304	Central Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America
Phase II: Enhance Sonfishers Archery Program and Correlating Wildlife Conservation Education	WFF	\$4,000	SONFISHER Calvary Chapel Merritt Island
Florida Hunters For The Hungry Inc	WFF	\$10,000	Florida Hunters for the Hungry Inc
Advancing Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation for LGBTQ+ Hunters	WFF	\$15,000	FWC
Ducks Unlimited Florida FFA Wood Duck Box Seminar	WFF	\$5,000	Ducks Unlimited
From Classroom to Dinner on the Table (add on WFF21-17 Cloud Nine Outdoors 3R's Urban Hunting Program)	WFF	\$3,050	CLOUD NINE OUTDOORS INC.
Proverb 31 Outdoorsman	WFF	\$25,000	10 CAN, Inc.
Florida BHA Archery Intro & 3D Challenge	WFF	\$11,837	Back Country Hunters and Anglers
Rolling Meadows Impoundment Vegetation Management	WFF	\$50,000	FWC
Ducks Unlimited Orlando Wood Duck Project	WFF	\$2,500	Ducks Unlimited—Orlando Chapter
Youth Scholarship Sponsor	Other Funds	\$5,000	Coastal Conservation Association—Florida
2021 Snook Symposium Sponsorship	Other Funds	\$2,500	FWC
2021 Redfish Summit	Other Funds	\$2,500	FWC

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS 23 — TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT \$380,212

SOUTH FLORIDA

When people elsewhere think of Florida, they likely imagine postcard-perfect south Florida. It's a region of sparkling coastal cities and vast subtropical wetlands and woods, from the 1.5 million-acre Everglades and Big Cypress to 850-square-mile Florida Bay, beyond which the Florida Keys swing 120 miles southwest into the Atlantic. Here the Florida panther, which once roamed as far as east Texas, makes its final stand. And beyond the Keys, the 360-mile Florida Reef Tract, which starts far to the north, forms a protecting finger along the Keys, dampening the power of hurricanes and providing shelter and food to much of Florida's marine life.

Our Foundation's investment in the health of south Florida's ecosystems continues to increase, from helping FWC restore Lake Trafford as a premier bass fishing spot to assisting the Conservancy of Southwest Florida's python removal program.



Osceola wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo osceola*)



Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*)



American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*)

RESTORING THE LOXAHATCHEE

The Loxahatchee River is one of two nationally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in Florida. Despite being a protected haven for wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts, it has not escaped impacts from upstream water diversion and downstream saltwater intrusion, damaging its bottomland hardwood forests and eelgrass beds. Having repaired the river's natural water flows, state agencies have turned to restoring the Loxahatchee's bald cypress and underwater eelgrass.

Using a grant from **Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund**, our Foundation purchased 950 bald cypress saplings (*Taxodium distichum*) that were planted in early fall along the river. As they grow, this new cypress forest will provide habitat for wildlife and help return the Loxahatchee floodplain to its full ecological function.

The grant from Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's also allowed the Foundation buy 1,500 eelgrass plants (*Vallisneria americana*) that will be planted in degraded areas of the northwest fork of the river. Once established, they should spread throughout the river, providing habitat for fish and invertebrates and food for manatees.



Loxahatchee River



RETURNING FLORIDA BAY TO ITS FORMER GLORY

As recently as the 1980's, Florida Bay held the greatest concentration of sponges in North America. But algae blooms and lack of sufficient freshwater from the Everglades contributed to the death of 90 percent of the Bay's sponges and much of the marine life that depended on them. FWC grew 15,000 new sponges from cuttings of seven species and planted them in four areas in 2021. Bass Pro Shops and other donors are helping fund this work, and over the next four years FWC will grow and plant another 45,000 sponges to demonstrate Florida Bay can be restored to its former glory.

CORALS' WHITE KNIGHTS IN SPINY ARMOR?

Corals create the castles that form the foundation of thriving marine ecosystems, but they are also their castles' inhabitants, susceptible to siege by hordes of predators. But possibly marching to their rescue is the spotted spiny lobster (*Panulirus guttatus*), one of the white knights of the coral kingdom.

Corals may look unappetizing to us, but they are a favorite food of the *Coralliophila galea* sea snail. In a healthy, balanced coral reef ecosystem, the snail is not a problem. But on reefs already stressed by disease, siltation, rising water temperatures, and other threats like those in Florida, these coral-eating snails become a serious issue. **Controlling snails is particularly important when transplanting nursery-raised corals to restore degraded parts of Florida's reefs.** The snails can consume young corals before they have a chance to grow or reproduce.

Enter the spotted spiny lobster, which finds the snails delicious. One full-grown lobster can consume several in a day. FWC biologists wanted to determine if transplanting spotted spiny lobsters to coral restoration

sites is an effective way to control snails. To help answer that question, we awarded FWC a \$37,000 grant from our *Conserve Wildlife* specialty license plate fund.

This novel form of biological control could be vital to Florida, according to FWC biologists.

“REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION OF CORAL REEFS IS AN IMMENSE TASK, BUT WE'RE HOPING TO FIND A WAY TO HARNESS THE POWER OF A NATURAL PREDATOR TO AID THOSE EFFORTS,”

said FWC lobster biologist Casey Butler. Similar studies in Mexico are already demonstrating the effectiveness of this work; FWC is hoping to learn more about Florida habitats in this and subsequent grants.



Spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*)

OUR WATERS, OUR FUTURE: THE FLORIDA CORAL REEF CONSERVATION FUND

Returning Florida's coral reef to its full health takes the work of many. The Foundation has been an active partner in coral conservation (page 23). To provide a reliable new stream of funding for this work, we have created the **Florida Coral Reef Conservation Fund**. In addition to seeking outright donations, we are asking Florida hotels, marinas, manufacturers, dive shops, and other businesses to add \$1 to their customers' bills or donate a portion of sales to the fund.

The idea was proposed by FWC Commissioner Robert Spottswood Sr., who committed Spottswood Companies' Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel to being the first participant. As the fund attracts more partners, we hope to raise and give away at least \$500,000 annually for coral reef conservation in the Keys and elsewhere in Florida.

YOU CAN LEARN MORE BY SCANNING THIS CODE.





Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

MEET YOUR OLD NEIGHBOR

Southwest Florida continues rapidly developing. What many new residents don't realize is their property may already be home to ground-dwelling burrowing owls and gopher tortoises. One of five North American tortoise species, gopher tortoises live in all 67 Florida counties, preferring well-drained, sandy soils. Burrowing owls are nearly as widespread and in southwest Florida live side by side tortoises, often in abandoned tortoise burrows.

Our Foundation awarded FWC \$25,000 from the *Conserve Wildlife* specialty license plate fund in 2021 to study the effectiveness of on-site conservation approaches. Rather than move tortoises and owls to off-site locations, FWC is creating and monitoring human-created "starter" burrows to see how well owls and gopher tortoises adapt to them. Biologists are checking the burrows monthly and hope to identify best practices in siting and constructing such habitats. Landowners in turn are receiving training on how to help the owls and tortoises thrive.

"WE ARE EXCITED TO BE TESTING STRATEGIES FOR PRESERVING LOCAL POPULATIONS OF THESE TWO ICONIC FLORIDA SPECIES,"

said Claire Sunquist, head of the FWC's Wildlife Diversity Conservation Section. "It's important to make sure these animals stay local whenever possible, finding home sweet home in their new burrows."



Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*)

THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

In a move Hemingway himself would laud, the Foundation has made its first grant to study and conserve sailfish, marlins, and other large billfish in Florida waters. Pompano Beach-based, nonprofit Gray FishTag Research has created an international fish-tagging program in which 10,000 charter boat captains and mates participate, the largest such network in the world.

Tagging billfish, striped bass, and other priority gamefish promotes catch-and-release and helps ensure the long-term health and size of gamefish populations worldwide. The data collected by charter boat captains has provided a wealth of otherwise difficult information to procure on these species' numbers and movements. All data is provided free of charge to scientists, charter boat captains, and conservation agencies.

The Foundation's \$15,000 grant from its *Discover Florida's Oceans* specialty license plate fund allowed Gray FishTag Research to purchase and donate more than 6,000 tags to charter captains operating in Florida waters. The grant is also funding the first-ever satellite tag research of greater amberjack to track the migration and behavior pattern of this prized sportfish.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

VBS HELPS PYTHON CHALLENGE HIT NEW HIGHS

The Python Challenge, which annually invites the public to south Florida to catch as many Burmese pythons as possible, set several records in 2021.

Thanks to the generosity of Brandon-based Virtual Business Services (VBS), this year's Challenge included a \$10,000 Ultimate Grand Prize. CEO Frank VanDeBoe said VBS, which provides business development services for companies of all sizes, was proud to be a leading sponsor of the Python Challenge given Florida's fragile ecosystem.

“PYTHONS ARE A MAJOR THREAT TO OUR NATIVE SPECIES. WE'RE EXCITED TO HELP BOOST PUBLIC INTEREST AND EFFORTS TO ERADICATE THE PYTHON VIA THE CHALLENGE.”

A record number of hunters entered the 2021 Challenge. Novice hunter Charlie Dachton won the Ultimate Grand Prize, having located two hatching nests and removing 41 pythons. Disturbingly, Charlie's nests were the furthest north yet found during a Python Challenge, reinforcing the belief that pythons are continuing to expand northward out of the Everglades.

In all, 223 pythons were caught during the 2021 event, the longest of which was 15 feet, nine inches.



SOUTH FLORIDA 2021 GRANTS LIST

PROJECT NAME	PLATE	AMOUNT AWARDED	RECIPIENT
Assessment of the epidemiology of a neuromuscular disorder impacting bobcats and the endangered Florida panther—Phase 2	CWT	\$114,000	FWC
Understanding effectiveness of economical on-site conservation options for protected species, and mutual benefits for residents of Florida	CWT	\$25,000	FWC
Continued Research on Mussel Propagation Techniques and Stocking Native Mussels to Restore Populations in Lake Trafford and Improve Water Quality	CWT	\$65,960	FWC
Coral reef restoration enhancement using a potential corallivore predator the spotted spiny lobster, <i>Panulirus guttatus</i>	CWT	\$37,358	FWC
Expansion of youth shooting sports safety education within the Southwest Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America	WFF	\$7,030	Southwest Florida Council, BSA
United Waterfowlers—FL Special Youth and Wounded Warrior Duck Hunts	WFF	\$2,400	United Waterfowlers Florida, Inc.
Nature Center Archery Programs	WFF	\$6,000	Loxahatchee River District
FWC 2022 R3 Summit—International Hunter Education Association/Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	WFF	\$14,000	FWC
Advertising and Marketing Funds for Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) Program	WFF	\$10,000	FWC
Gray FishTag program	DFO	\$15,000	Gray FishTag Research
REEF SMILE Project	DFO	\$20,000	REEF
Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center Floating Classroom	DFO	\$25,000	Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center
John Pennekamp Underwater Reef Observation Project	DFO	\$27,119	Florida State Parks Foundation
Lionfish Tournament	DFO	\$2,000	Universo Marino
25th Anniversary Gala Entertainment Sponsor	Other Funds	\$2,500	Community Foundation of the Florida Keys

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS 15 — TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT \$373,367



LEAVE A WILD LEGACY

You can leave a wild legacy by naming the Foundation in your estate plans through a will, trust, prepaid life insurance policy, or other estate planning vehicles.

Thanks to our partnership with **FreeWill**, estate planning has never been easier. FreeWill is a free, online will-writing tool that guides you through the process of creating your will and legacy in 20 minutes or less. The resource is completely free to use.

For more information about leaving a legacy gift, please visit our website or contact Ms. Dani Cummings at dcummings@wildlifeflorida.org. All inquiries will be kept confidential.

Whether via a bequest or outright gift, please consider a contribution to our three permanent endowments as described on the following pages. You can also earmark your bequest to support the conservation of particular species or types of habitat.

THE CHILDREN AND NATURE ENDOWMENT

Remembering future generations in your estate plans is easy via a gift to the Children and Nature Endowment, which supports outdoor education programs for youth throughout Florida. “We want to be sure Florida’s outstanding programs for children and teens are financially secure for generations to come,” says Foundation Board Chair Emeritus Dick Corbett.

“THERE ARE SO MANY KIDS FROM ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES THAT WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO ATTEND OUTDOOR CAMPS WITHOUT RELIABLE YEAR-TO-YEAR FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE FOUNDATION.”



MY COMMITMENT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

A few months ago, I hosted an evening for one of our Foundation’s principal partners, Ducks Unlimited. DU CEO Adam Putnam, who is also a member of our Foundation Board, and other senior DU leadership were there to talk about DU’s ongoing efforts in the United States and Canada. DU has now protected 15 million acres in North America, which in 2021 included the 27,000-acre DeLuca tract in Osceola County, to which our Foundation made a six-figure gift.

We both also work hard to get youth out into nature. DU focuses particularly on high school and college-aged men and women; we meanwhile support FWC’s Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FYCCN). FYCCN’s 360 partner organizations provide formative outdoor experiences for more than 284,000 Florida children and younger teens. FWC’s own camps and nature centers are the crown jewels of the network.

As a principal donor to both DU and the Foundation’s youth programs, I want to provide today’s kids with the same outdoor opportunities I had as a child in upstate New York with my father and siblings. Hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and quiet time in nature have been my passions ever since, and I’ve devoted much of my life to protecting and caring for wildlife habitat, thanks to those early experiences.

If we are to instill a deep love for the outdoors in today’s generation of young people, we have to make it as easy and enticing as possible to be in nature. Florida has been a leader in this effort. We need to expand our programs and share our knowledge and experiences with many other states, even as we learn in turn from them.

In the coming months, you’ll be hearing more about these plans, and in the meantime, I invite you to visit our camps, and better still, send your children and grandchildren to them. We live in an increasingly hectic, distracting, built-up world. Nature has never been more important.



Richard Corbett

Richard “Dick” Corbett,
Foundation Board Chair Emeritus





Sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*)

RARE PLANT CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT

Rare plants account for nearly 15% of the state's 2,864 native species, many of which can only be found in Florida. Some species have declined due to a long history of negative human impacts, while other species are rare due to biological constraints. Donate to our endowment to fund surveys, outplanting, reintroduction trials, and studies that help improve knowledge of species biology, current distribution, and their present endangerment. Several important conservation projects are already underway, including the augmentation and introduction of *Ziziphus celata*; propagation, introduction, and habitat management of *Torreya taxifolia*; and reintroduction of *Jacquemontia reclinata*.

THE FLORIDA CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT

The Florida Conservation Endowment is our general endowment, used to support a portion of our operations and the many conservation programs and projects we operate or sponsor. This permanent fund, to which donors can contribute via outright or planned gifts like bequests, annuities, or trusts, will help ensure a predictable stream of revenue for our conservation programs far into the future.

For more information about these funds and how to contribute to them, including via your estate plans, please contact Danielle Cummings at dcummings@wildlifeflorida.org or visit our website via the below code.



Dani Cummings
Director of Institutional Giving



YOU CAN
LEARN MORE
BY SCANNING
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Florida skullcap (*Scutellaria floridana*)



OUR SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU!

The Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida is only as strong as you, our supporters, make us. We wish to thank the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations that made charitable gifts of \$100 or more in 2021.

To continue supporting us, please visit wildlifeflorida.org.

And if you're looking for a new way to support our work and get a little something for you too, check out our new store at wildlifeflorida.com! You can "adopt" a plush panther, get a shirt for the perfect day on the water, or a mug to keep your coffee warm in the deer stand.

CONSERVATION LEGACY SOCIETY

The Conservation Legacy Society was created to recognize and thank those individuals who have made the most personal and thoughtful gift of all, a commitment to ensure Florida remains a place of outstanding natural beauty and diversity for generations to come.

Mrs. Barbara & Mr. Michael Cooney

Mrs. Kim & Mr. John Diede

Ms. Rebecca Falmlen

Ms. Michelle J. Pavlick

Ms. Roberta A. Speer

Mr. & Mrs. C. Martin Wood III



Snowy egret (*Egretta thula*)

* Conservation Champion and + A Night for Nature donor

HAMMERHEAD SHARK SOCIETY (\$100,000+)

The Aloysius F. Harter Family Trust
Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund+
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Mr. & Mrs. C. Martin Wood III+

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

ALLIE SIDES

Allie Sides was born with a little bit of Florida magic. A native of Tarpon Springs, she grew up pulling mangoes and oranges off trees at her grandparents' house on Merritt Island whenever she needed a snack. Her childhood was filled with swimming alongside manatees, playing with horseshoe crabs, and watching dolphins cruise for fish. Her family would wake early to soak up the morning sun sparkling on the water and stay up at night to see the large white flowers of night-blooming cereus open.



She infuses her labor of love, her company Leatherback Naturals, with these memories. Each candle carries her creativity and a story and she brings an education in holistic healing to her work, using only natural, sustainably sourced ingredients. When you buy a Leatherback Naturals product, you also support the Foundation; 10% of proceeds from every sale is donated to us. "I knew I wanted my work to support conservation, particularly our ocean," said Allie.

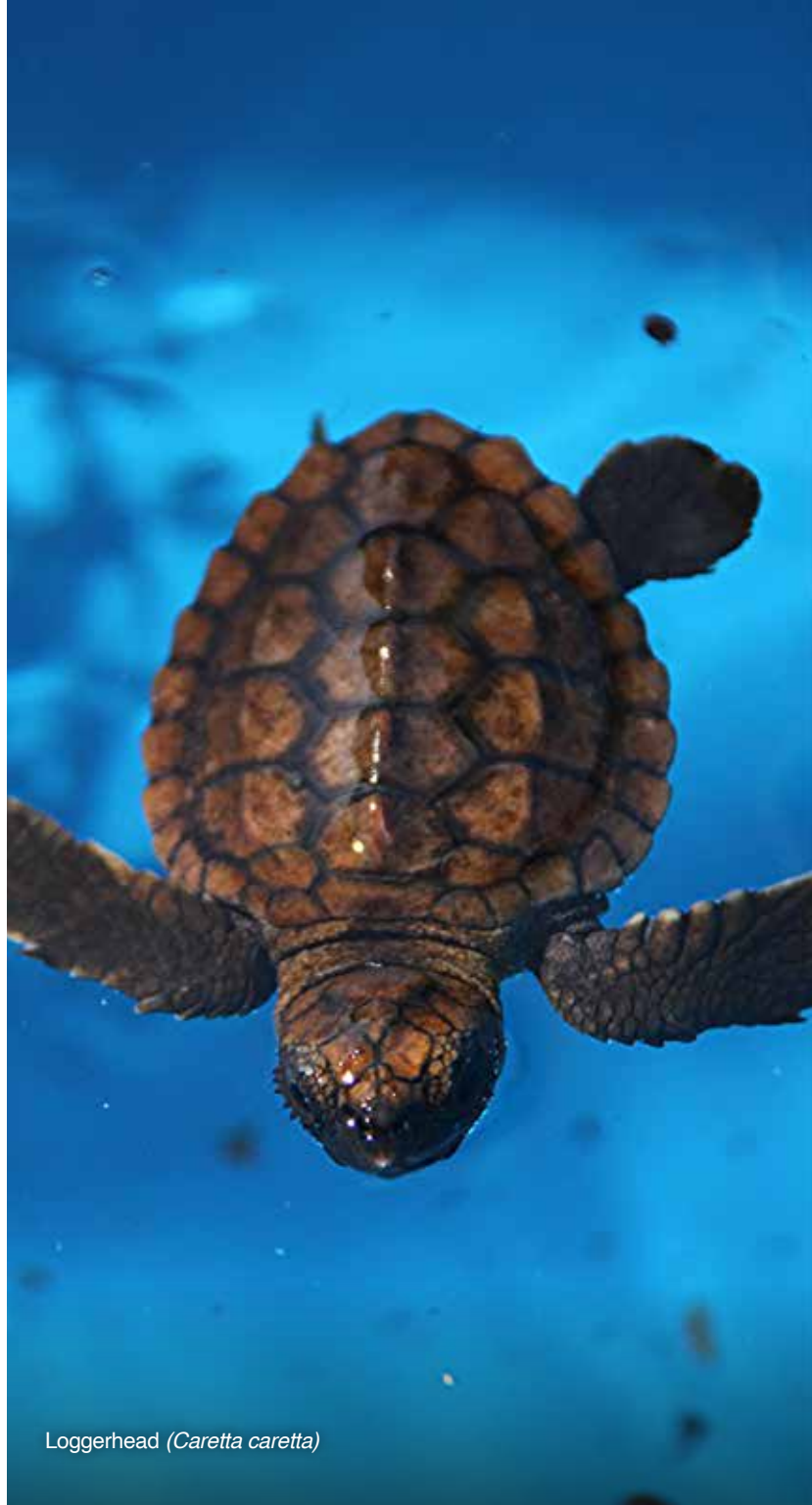
"I'M THRILLED TO PARTNER WITH THE FOUNDATION TO CONSERVE OUR UNIQUE WILDLIFE."



A NIGHT FOR NATURE

Lionfish, panthers, and bears! They were all part of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida's A Night for Nature gala. The outdoor event on Friday, April 9th, 2021 at the Pelican Club in Jupiter raised \$800,000 to support outdoor youth education and wildlife conservation.

Honored for their lifelong commitments to youth and conservation were Jack Nicklaus, Paul Tudor Jones II, and Joe Neber of Contender Boats. Laura Russell, Tucker Frederickson, and John Lacy co-chaired the sold-out event. The planning committee also included Preston Fariior, Kathy Barco, Angela Lacy, and Chuck Collins. Gala sponsors were treated to a post-gala Cinco de Mayo clay shoot at the newly opened Palm Beach Shooting Sports Complex. It was the first such event at the Olympic-caliber facility. Despite the challenging course, attendees showed off their expert marksmanship and refreshed with mocktails, tamales, and fresh guacamole.



Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)

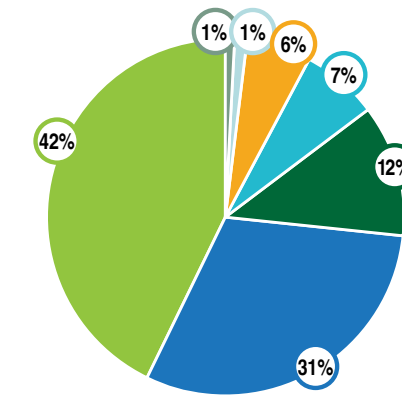


Carlos Alfonso, Jack Nicklaus, Laura Russell



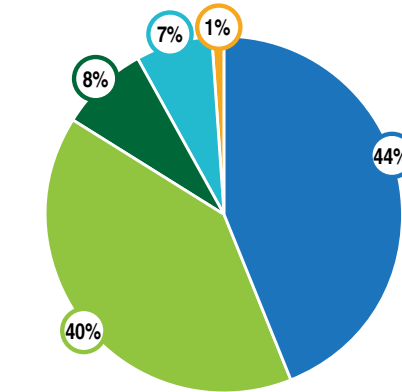
John Lacy, Paul Tudor Jones II, Tucker Frederickson

FINANCES



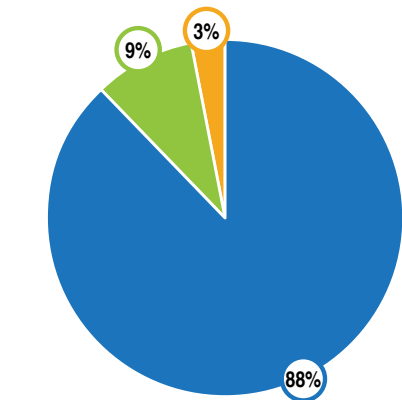
2021 REVENUE BY SOURCE

SOURCE	REVENUE
Endangered Species Mitigation	\$6,123,231
Program Fees and Services	\$2,300,366
Philanthropic Giving	\$1,387,542
Investments	\$8,465,442
License Plates	\$1,161,559
Government Grants	\$178,008
In-Kind	\$259,869



2021 PROGRAM EXPENSE BY CATEGORY

CATEGORY	EXPENSE
Conserving Wildlife	\$2,692,140
Combating Invasives	\$17,414
Preserving Our Outdoor Heritage	\$2,447,557
Getting Kids Back to Nature	\$490,965
Restoring Our Reefs	\$404,841



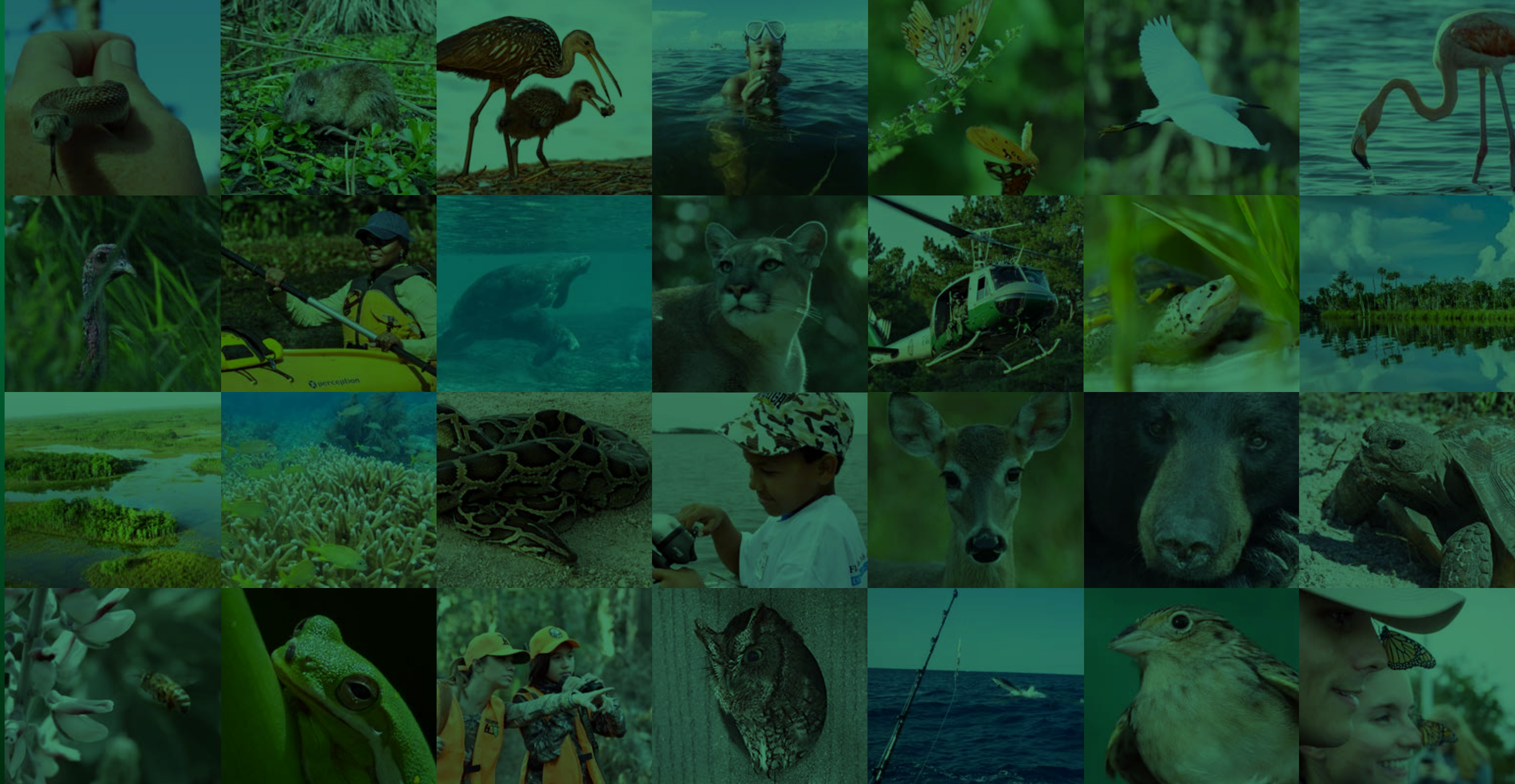
2021 PROGRAMMATIC EFFICIENCY

CATEGORY	EXPENSE
Program	\$6,052,917
Administration	\$649,586
Fundraising	\$173,806

CONSERVING NATURE AND OUR OUTDOOR HERITAGE

Help support our work by donating to the Foundation, buying a license plate or gear in our revamped store, entering our Great Florida Outdoors Raffle, or volunteering.

More information can be found at wildlifeflorida.org.





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