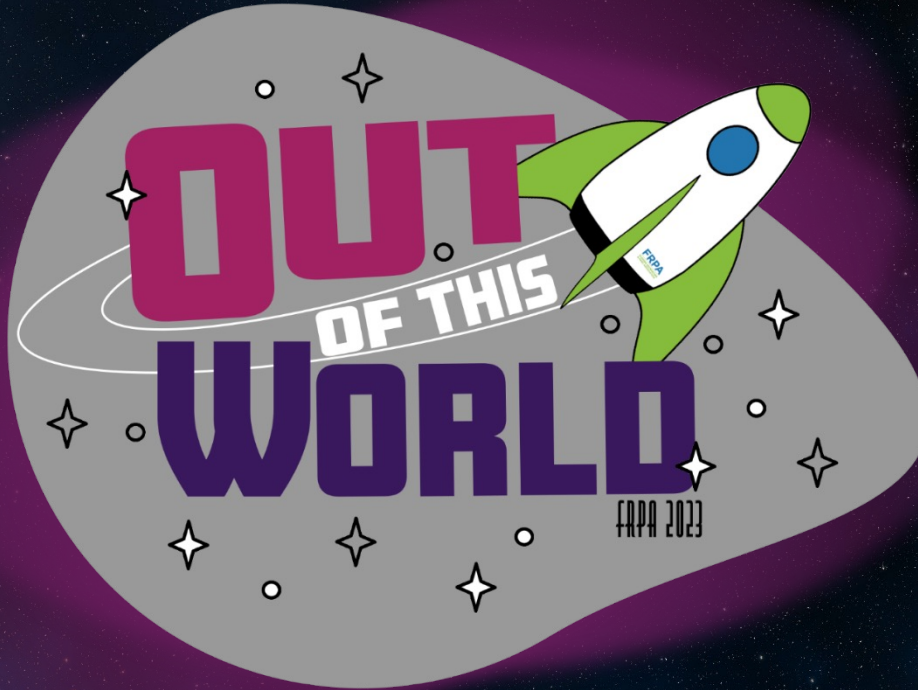


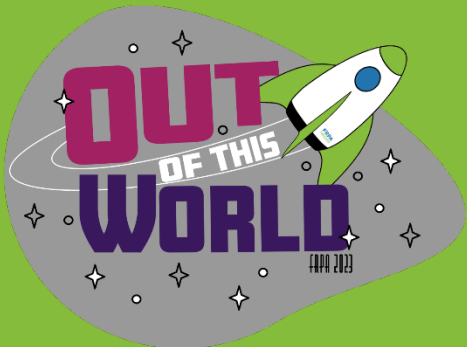
# Welcome to the 2023 FRPA Conference!



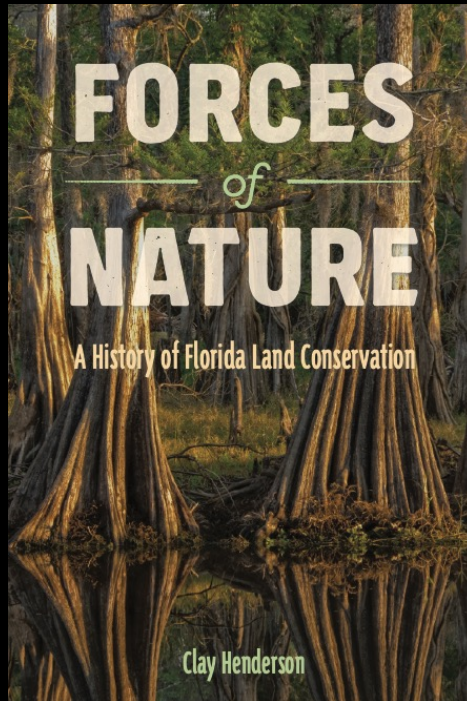
## August 28 - 31, 2023 | Orlando, FL



# How Florida Became a State of Parks







**Clay Henderson**

[www.clayhendersonauthor.com](http://www.clayhendersonauthor.com)



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1. Florida has created over 11 million acres of parks and preserves over the last century.**
- 2. Florida has the best state park system in the nation.**
- 3. Over 500 local parks have been established in the last 30 years.**





Over the last century, Florida assembled eleven million acres of national/state/local parks and preserves, more than any other state.

The nation's first wildlife refuge was established in Florida.

Everglades National Park is a World Heritage Site

Florida State Parks are considered among the best in the nation.

Over 600 local parks have been created in recent years under the Florida Communities Trust program.

in 2023, the Florida Legislature appropriated over \$1 billion for land conservation.







**Florida is like no other place on earth!**

**1300 miles of coastline**

**7800 Lakes**

**27 First Magnitude Springs**

**The Everglades**

**Florida Keys**



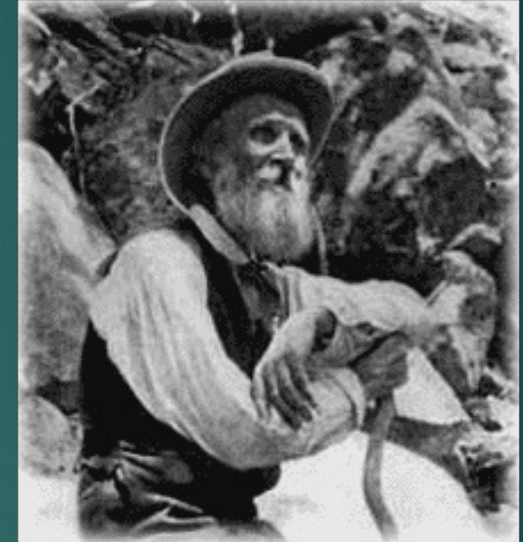
# Florida's natural beauty inspired the birth of the modern environmental movement



William Bartram 1774  
Florida exploration  
inspired Thoreau,  
Emerson, Humboldt,  
Coleridge, Wordsworth



John James Audubon  
Florida tour in 1832  
inspired wildlife  
conservation and  
establishment of the  
Audubon Society



John Muir

John Muir 1866 trek  
through Florida marked  
the beginnings of  
ecology. His work  
Inspired creation of the  
National Park System



# Places visited by Bartram, Audubon, and Muir are now National and State Parks, Forests, and Refuges

Timucuan Ecological and Historic  
National Preserve  
Castillo de San Marcos National  
Monument  
Washington Oaks State Park  
Bulow Creek State Park  
Tomoka State Park  
Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge  
DeLeon Springs State Park  
Everglades National Park  
Canaveral National Seashore  
Indian Key Historic State Park

Key West National Wildlife Refuge  
Dry Tortugas National Park.  
Haw Creek Preserve State Park  
Amelia Island  
Bahia Honda State Park  
Blue Springs State Park  
Cedar Key National Wildlife Refuge  
Hontoon Island State Park  
Paynes Prairie State Preserve  
Key West National Wildlife Refuge  
Ocala National Forest



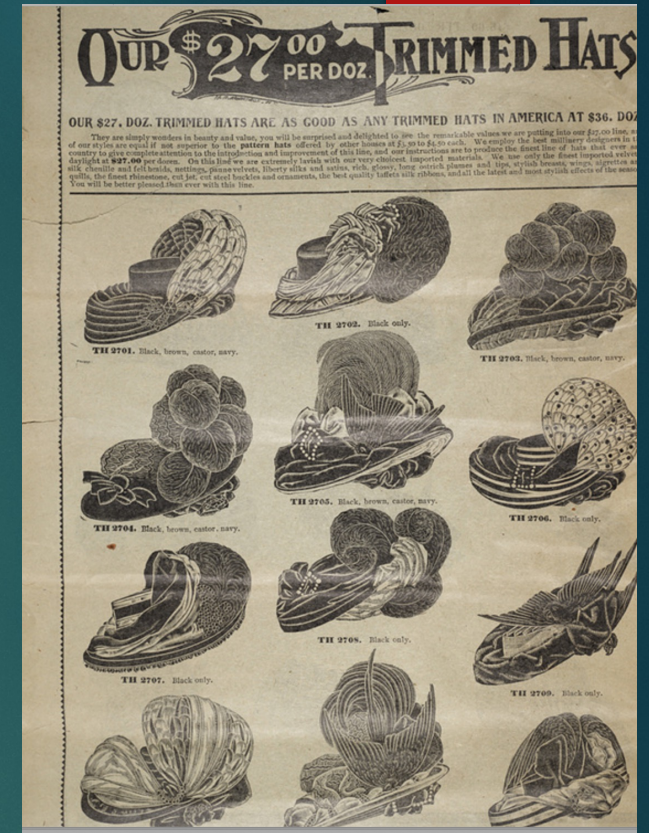


## Feather Wars 1890s

90% of Florida's wading  
Birds were killed



Guy Bradley, Audubon warden  
Monroe County Deputy  
Murdered 1905.



1901 Audubon Model  
Law passed in Florida.  
Banned possession of a dead  
Non-game bird.





Theodore Roosevelt  
Came to Tampa Bay as part of the Cuban Expeditionary Force in 1898



[ COPY ]

WHITE HOUSE

March 14th, 1903.

It is hereby ordered that Pelican Island in Indian River in section nine, township thirty-one south, range thirty-nine east, State of Florida, be, and it is hereby, reserved and set apart for the use of the Department of Agriculture as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds.

Theodore Roosevelt.

**Theodore Roosevelt  
Pelican Island 1903  
America's first national wildlife refuge**







Theodore Roosevelt  
And John Muir

Pelican Island  
Passage Key  
Indian Key  
Key West Islands  
Dry Tortugas  
Pine Island  
Matlacha Pass  
Palma Sola  
Island Bay  
Ocala National Forest  
Choctawhatchee National Forest  
Ponce de Leon Inlet

## Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Legacy

Ten Executive Orders  
Conserved one million  
Acres of Florida





# Royal Park Hammock State Park Florida's first state park 1915



Florida Federation  
of Women's Clubs



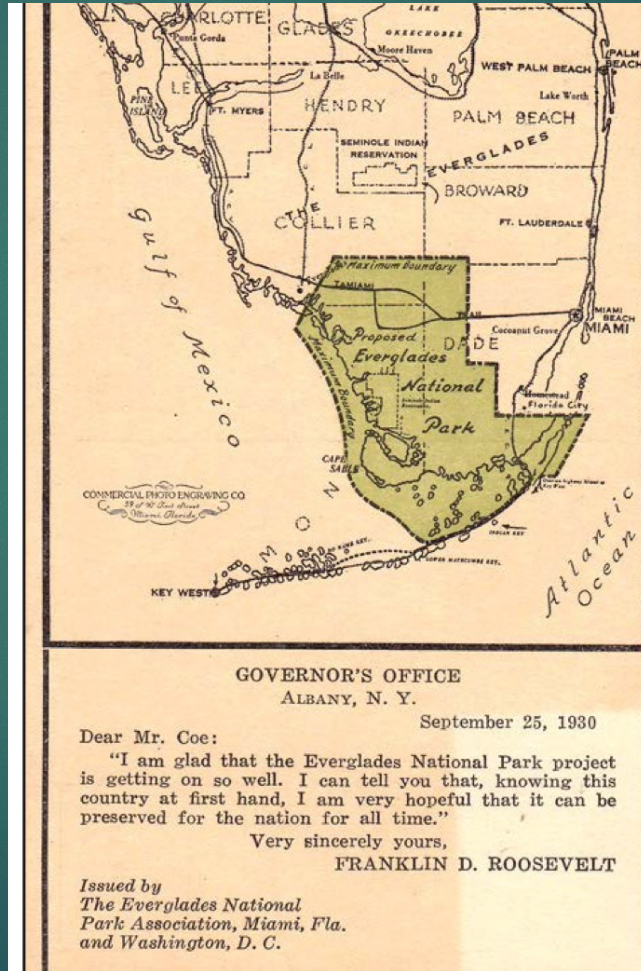
May Mann Jennings



# Saving the Everglades



President-elect Franklin Roosevelt  
Tours Florida Bay prior to inauguration



Ernest Coe  
"Father of the Everglades"



FDR pushed to establish Everglades National Park  
Congress authorized in 1934  
Contingent upon state purchase of lands







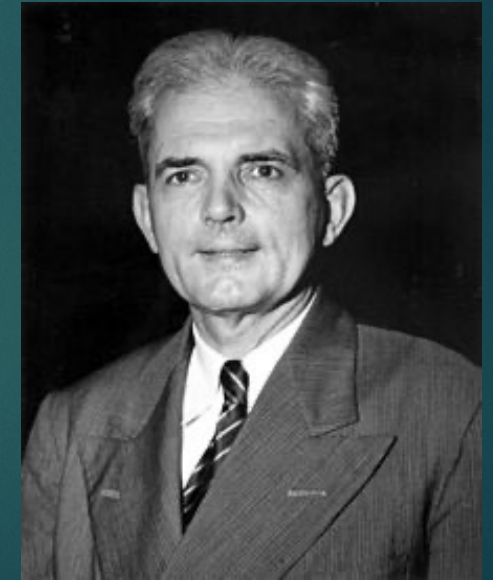
Marjorie Stoneman Douglas



Dedication of Everglades National Park  
December 6, 1947

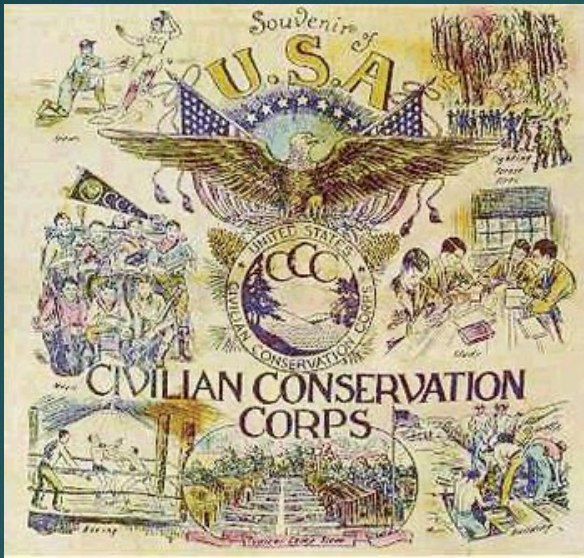


President Truman and  
John Pennekamp, first  
Chair of State Parks Commission



Senator Spessard Holland





## Birth of the State Park System

- Highland Hammock
- Gold Head Branch State Park
- Myakka River State Park
- Hillsborough River State Park
- O'Leno State Park
- Fort Clinch State Park Keystone
- Tomoka State Park
- Torreya State Park
- Florida Caverns State Park
- Ravine Gardens State Park



## FDR and the CCC

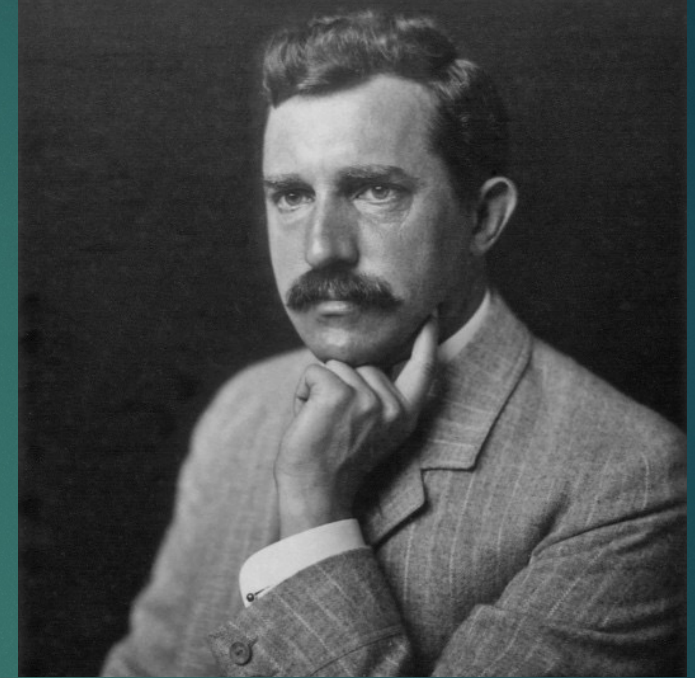
### Emergency Conservation Works Act 1933 Civilian Conservation Corps

**50,000 "CCC boys" put to work in Florida  
To build state parks and state forests.**





Highland Hammock State Park  
Florida's First State Park  
Donated by Roebling Family  
Built by the CCC



John Roebling



# National Forests of Florida

Ocala National Forest T. Roosevelt 1908

Osceola National Forest Herbert Hoover 1931

Apalachicola National Forest FDR 1938

1.2 million acres

1400 miles of trails

85,000 acres of wilderness.



Fern Hammock Springs



Choctawhatchee National Forest



# Outdoor Conservation Act of 1963

Created Land Acquisition Trust Fund  
Funded by the “bikini tax”  
Later by severance tax on phosphate



Sponsored by  
Freshman legislator  
Lawton Chiles



Ney Landrum: Staff Director  
Committee on Recreation and Development  
State Parks Director 1971-1989





State Parks created  
With funds from the  
1963 \$20 million Bond Issue



**Wekiva 1969**



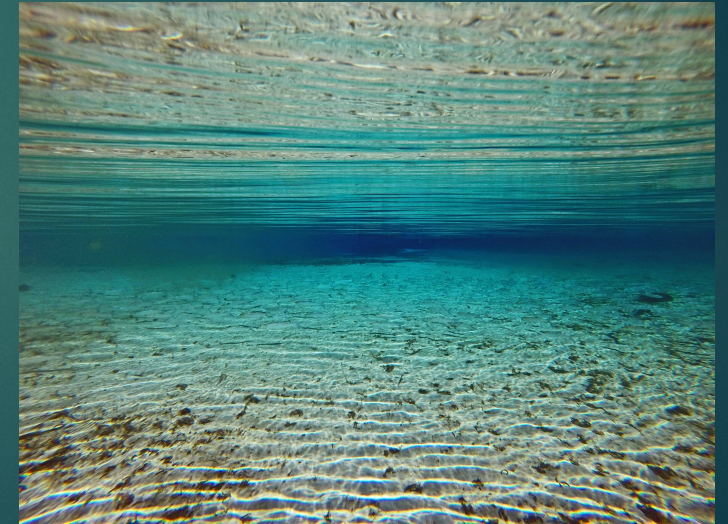
**Sebastian Inlet 1969**



**Bill Baggs 1966**

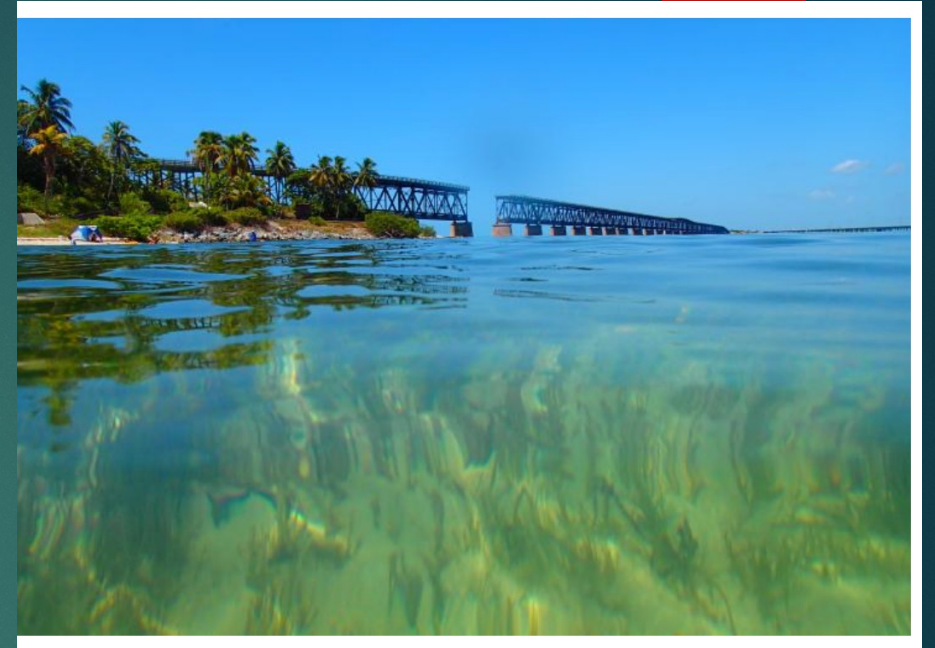


**St. George Island 1963**



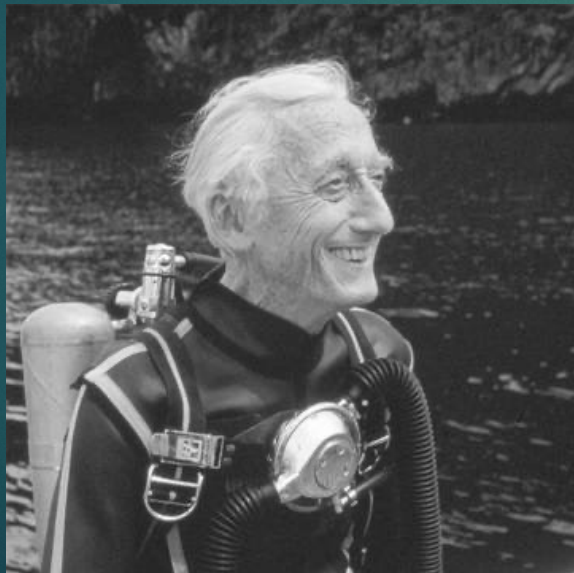
**Blue Spring**





Florida Keys  
John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park  
Bahia Honda State Park  
Long Key State Park  
Indian Key State Preserve



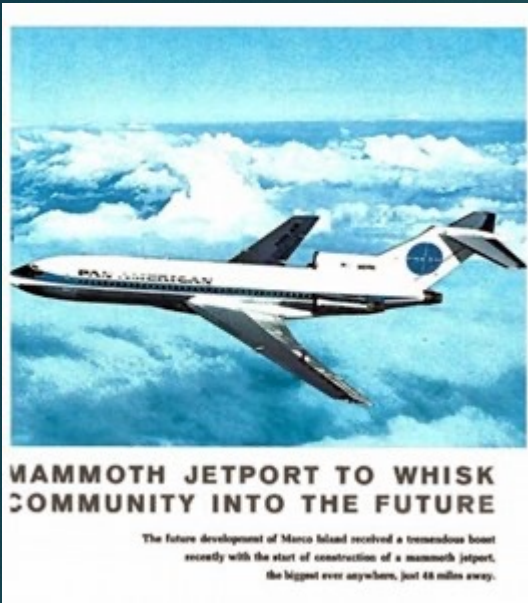


ten Mermaids - The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau

# THE FORGOTTEN MERMAIDS

Jacques Cousteau  
Blue Springs 1972  
Led to establishment of state park





Joe Browder

Marjory Stoneman Douglas

## Everglades Jetport 1970



Gov. Claude Kirk



Nathaniel Reed





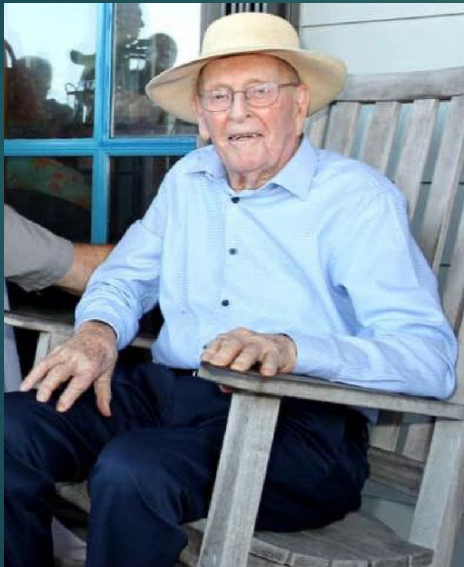
Big Cypress National Preserve

NPS photo





Sir Lancelot Jones



Lloyd Miller "Father of Biscayne National Park"



Biscayne National Park

NPS photo



# National Wildlife Refuges in Florida

1903	Pelican Island		
1905	Passage Key	1979	Lower Suwannee
1908	Island Bay	1980	Crocodile Lakes
1908	Matlacha Pass	1983	Crystal River
1908	Key West	1989	Florida Panther
1908	Pine Island	1991	Archie Carr NW
1920	Caloosahatchee	1993	Lake Wales Ridge
1930	St. Marks	1996	Ten Thousand Islands
1938	Great White Heron	2012	Everglades Headwaters
1945	Sanibel now Ding Darling		
1951	Loxahatchee		
1951	Pinellas		
1957	National Key Deer Refuge		
1963	Merritt Island		
1964	Lake Woodruff		
1968	St. Vincent		
1969	Hobe Sound now Nat Reed		
1971	St Johns		
1974	Egmont Key		





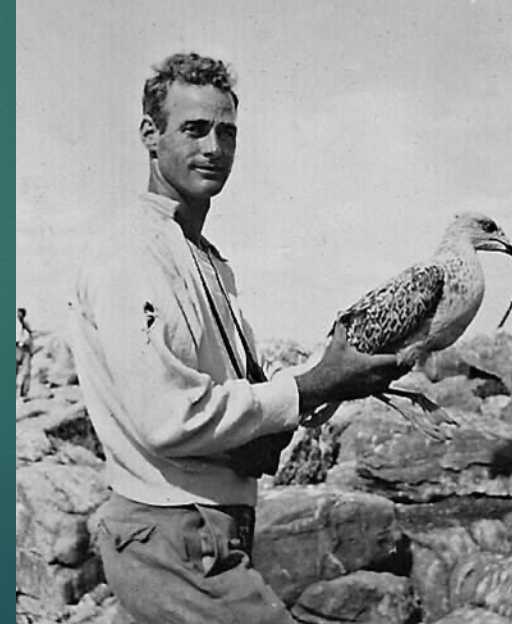


Sanibel NWR established by President Harry Truman and expanded through Duck Stamp program established by Ding Darling. The refuge is among the most Visited refuge in the country.





Merritt Island NWR established through agreement With NASA and includes 63,000 acres of Kennedy Space Center. Allen Cruickshank led the effort to Establish the refuge.





# National Seashores



Artist Doris Leeper was the driving force  
Behind establishment of Canaveral National Seashore

NPS photo





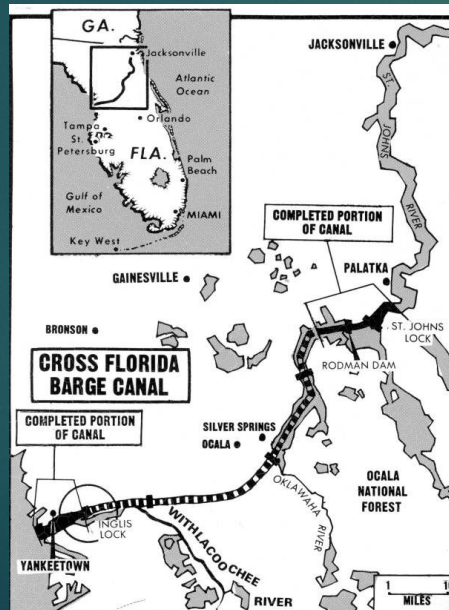
J. Earle Bowden editorial cartoons  
For Pensacola News-Journal push  
Public opinion for establishment  
Of Gulf Islands National Seashore.







Cross Florida Barge Canal

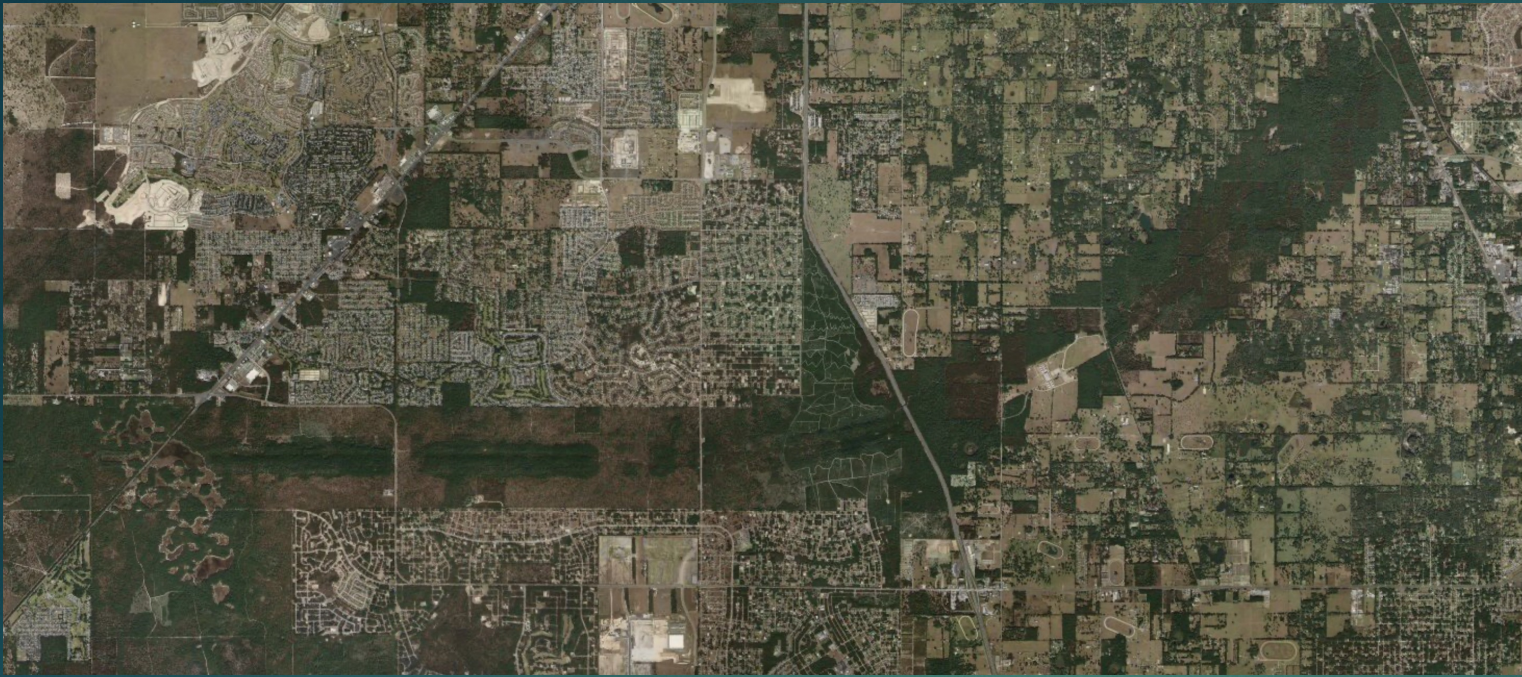


Marjorie Carr



From Boondoggle to Greenway





Marjorie Harris Carr  
Cross Florida Greenway  
70,000 acres  
110 miles long  
St. Johns River to Gulf





## Environmentally Endangered Lands



ELMS1

Land and Water Conservation Act 1972

Land Conservation Act 1972

Linkage between land conservation and growth management

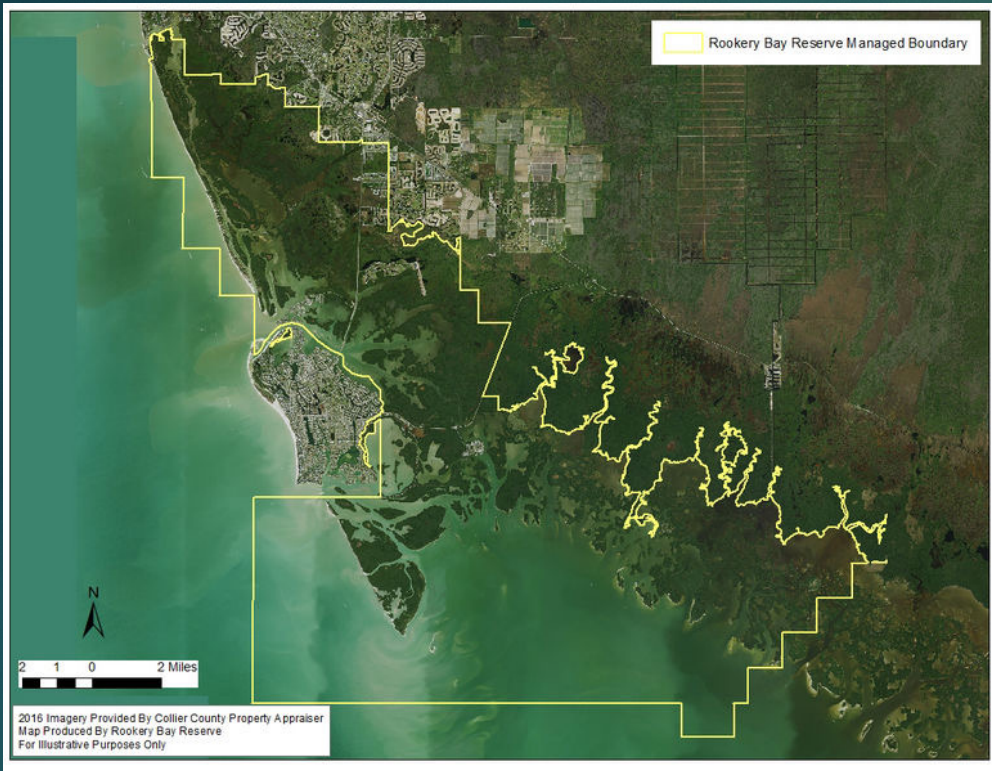
\$200 million for purchase of "Environmentally Endangered Lands"

\$40 million for state parks



Gov. Reubin Askew





**Rookery Bay and Fakahatchee Strand were early priorities**





**Governor Bob Graham**

**Save Our Everglades  
Save Our Coasts  
Save Our Rivers**

**Conservation and Recreational Lands**





Graham and Marjory Stoneman Douglas

## Save Our Everglades

Beginning the Kissimmee River Restoration was the important task of Save Our Everglades



Photo: Audubon of Florida



# Save Our Rivers



Suwannee River  
Brown Tract

## Northwest Florida WMD

*Wakulla Springs 2 888 acres*

*Escambia River floodplain 17 998 acres*

*Choctawhatchee River floodplain 35.198 acres*

*Apalachicola River floodplain 35.509 acres*

## Suwannee River WMD

*Suwannee River Buffer Lands 150,000 acres*

## St. Johns River WMD

*St. Johns Headwaters: 165,000 acres*

## South Florida WMD

*Green Swamp 125,000 acres*

## SFWMD

*Water Conservation Areas 217.429 acres*



# Save Our Coasts



73 miles of coastline preserved  
73,000 acres

## Coastal State Parks

Henderson Beach  
Amelia Island  
Lover's Key  
Grayton Beach  
Don Pedro Island  
Avalon





## Big Bend 1986

Purchase by TNC from Buckeye Cellulose

60 miles of coastline

75,000 acres

Largest conservation purchase at the time

TNC became largest landowner on Gulf Coast



George Willson TNC



Photo: CCA



# CARL

Conservation and Recreation Lands 1979

Division of State Lands

Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council

“to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to or scarce within a regional of Florida.”

## North Key Largo Hammocks



## Wekiva







## Governor Bob Martinez Preservation 2000 1990

**“I believe Preservation 2000 will do more to protect our environment, to protect Florida we all know and love, than anything else we can do”**





1.8 million acres preserved!  
17 new state parks  
13 new state forests

Preservation 2000  
10 year \$3 billion program

\$300 million per year

\$150 million CARL  
\$90 million Save Our Rivers  
\$30 million Florida Communities Trust  
\$26 million forests, parks, wildlife mgt  
\$3.9 million Rails to Trails



## P2000-17 new state parks

Fanning Spring  
Troy Spring  
Deer Lake  
Curry Hammock  
Seabranh  
Catfish Creek  
Letchworth Mounds  
Kissimmee Prairie  
Alafia River  
Kissimmee Prairie  
Bald Point  
Camp Helen  
Charlotte Harbor  
Cockroach Bsy  
Lake June in Winter  
Tarkiln Bayou  
Topsail Hill



Fran Mainella  
Florida Parks Service Director 1989-2001  
National Park Service Director 2001-2005







**Topsail Hill State Preserve**





## 14 State Forests

Carl Duval Moore State Forest  
Etoniah Creek State Forest  
Goethe State Forest  
Jennings State Forest  
Lake George State Forest  
Lake Talquin State Forest  
Big Econ State Forest )  
Myakka State Forest  
Okaloacoochee State Forest  
Picayune Strand State Forest  
Point Washington State Forest  
Ross Prairie State Forest  
Tate's Hell State Forest  
Wakulla State Forest





Cedar Point Jacksonville



Deering Estate Addition Dade County



**Florida Communities Trust**  
**628 Grants**  
**523 local parks**



Split Oak Orange County



Princess Place Flagler County





## Rails to Trails



**rails-to-trails**

Tallahassee-St. Marks Trail  
Pinellas Trail  
Withlacoochee State Trail  
Jacksonville-Baldwin Trail  
Timpoochee Trail

Gen. James A. Fleet State Trail  
West Orange Trail  
Gainesville-Hawthorne State Trail  
Legacy Trail  
East Central Florida Rail Trail



# Florida National Scenic Trail

30 YEARS OF TRAILBLAZING IN FLORIDA

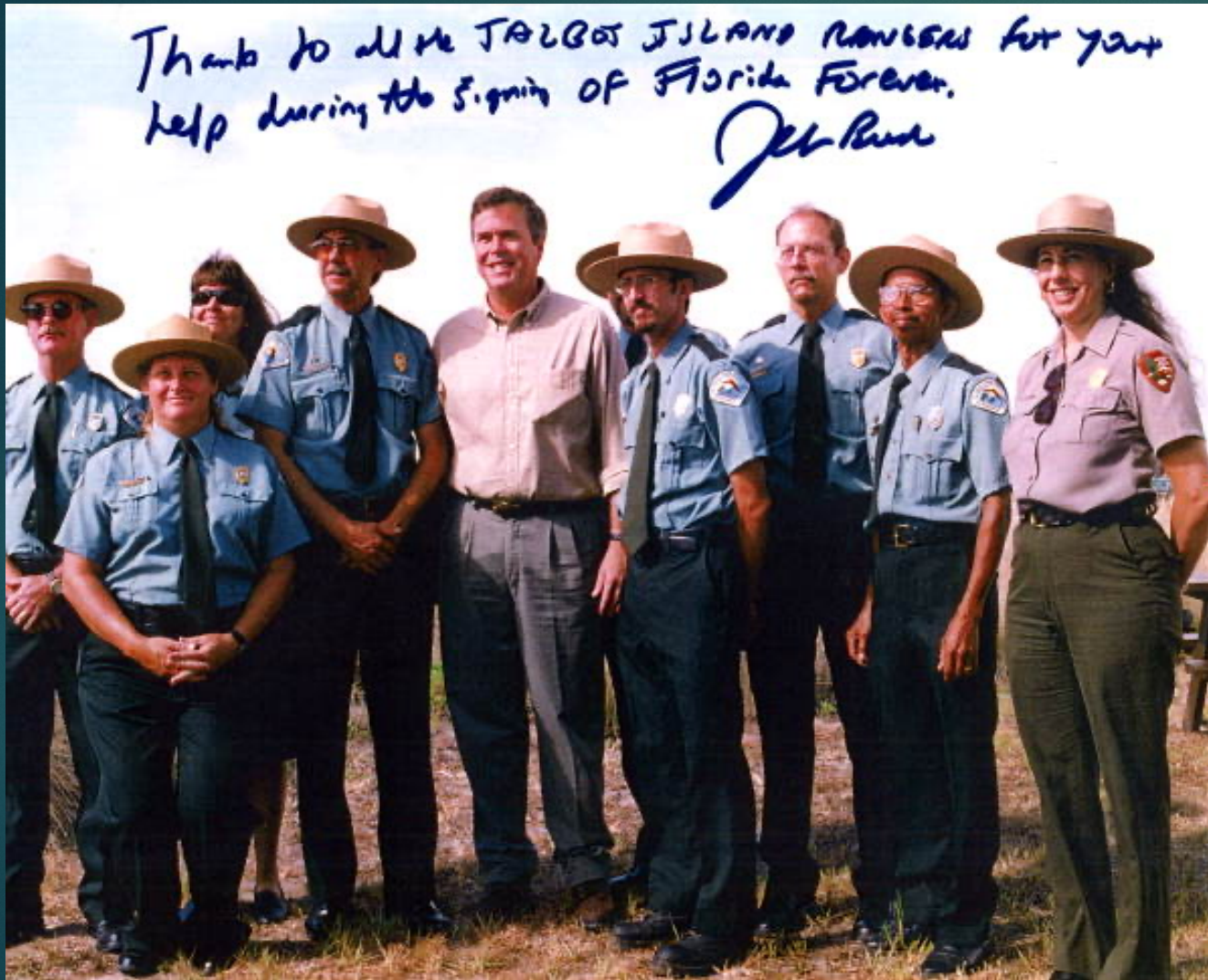
1500 miles



Jim Kern







Conservation Amendment  
Passes 72% of vote 1998

Gov. Bush makes Florida Forever  
A priority in 1999

\$300 million per year for 10 years

\$105m for large scale projects

\$105m for WMDs

\$72m for Fla. Communities Trust

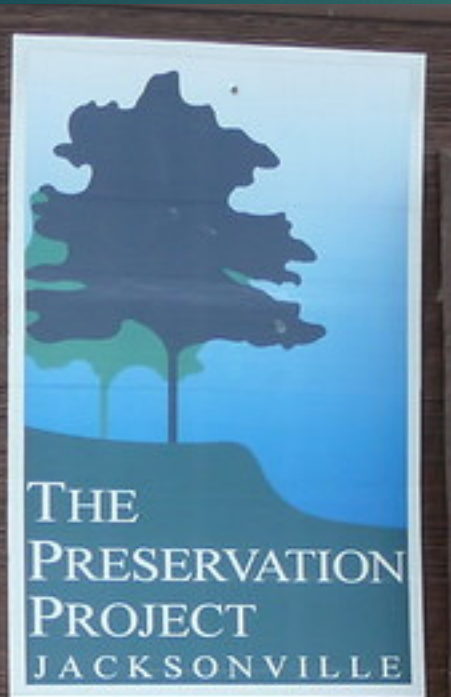
\$4.5 each to Parks, Forests, FWC

\$4.5m for Greenways/Trails





Mayor John Delaney



Jacksonville Preservation Project





Syd Kitson



Bobcock Ranch Preserve  
67,000 acres  
2006 special appropriation  
\$350 million



# Local Bond Programs

Alachua  
Brevard  
Broward  
Charlotte  
Collier  
Flagler  
Hillsborough  
Jacksonville  
Indian River  
Lake  
Leon

Manatee  
Martin  
Miami-Dade  
Osceola  
Palm Beach  
Pasco  
Pinellas  
Polk  
Sarasota  
Seminole  
St. Lucie  
Volusia

23 counties in Florida have voter approved Conservation acquisitions programs that total over \$15 billion.

Volusia  
Sarasota  
Pinellas  
Alachua

Voters have approved bond measures three times



1986-2000-2020



# PRESERVATION 2000

*Forever  
Florida*

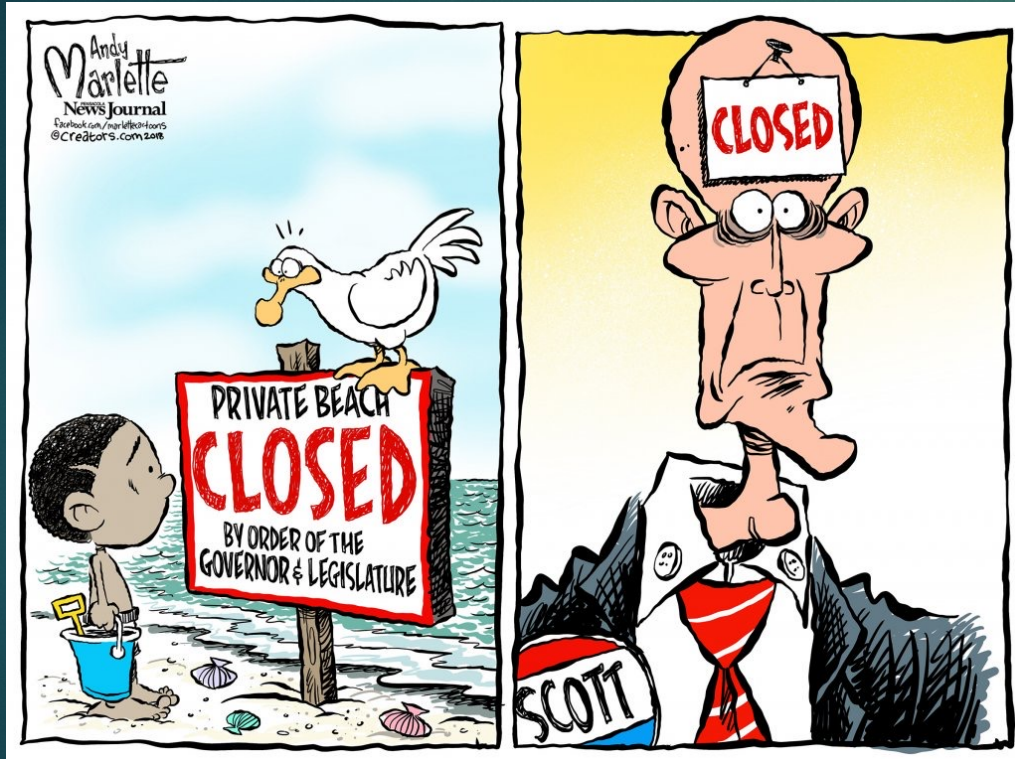
**1 MILLION ACRES  
CONSERVED**

1991-2008  
2.8 million acres  
Protected



In 2008 the Great Recession brought Florida Forever to an abrupt end.

In 2011 Gov. Rick Scott was ready to close state parks  
And sell off conservation lands.



Protesters at Washington Oaks State Parks





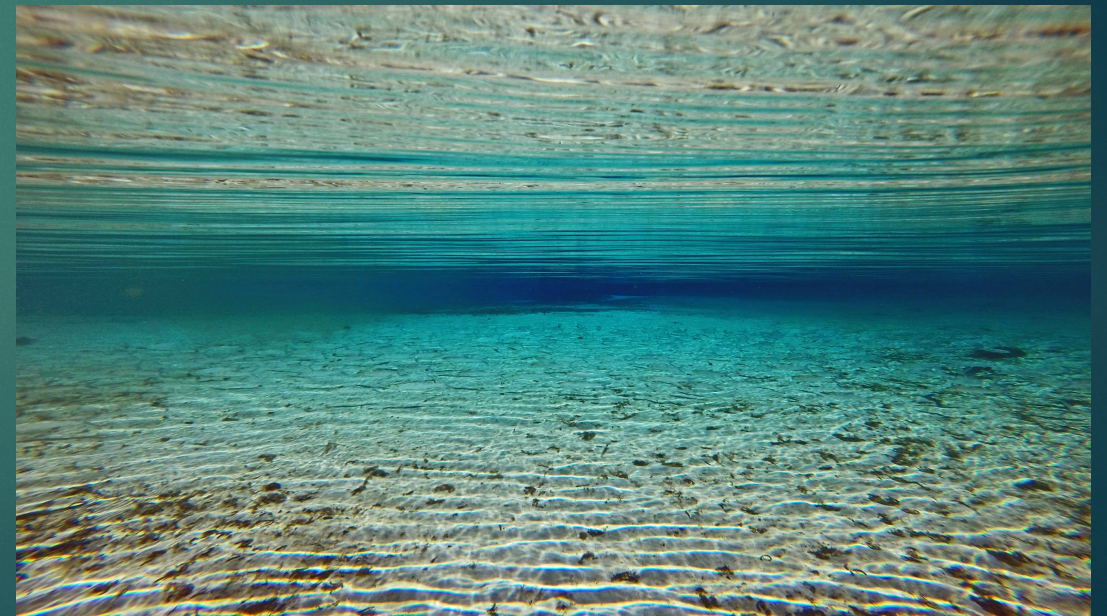
2014 Florida voters overwhelmingly approved the largest conservation finance program in our nation's history. \$23 billion for conservation.



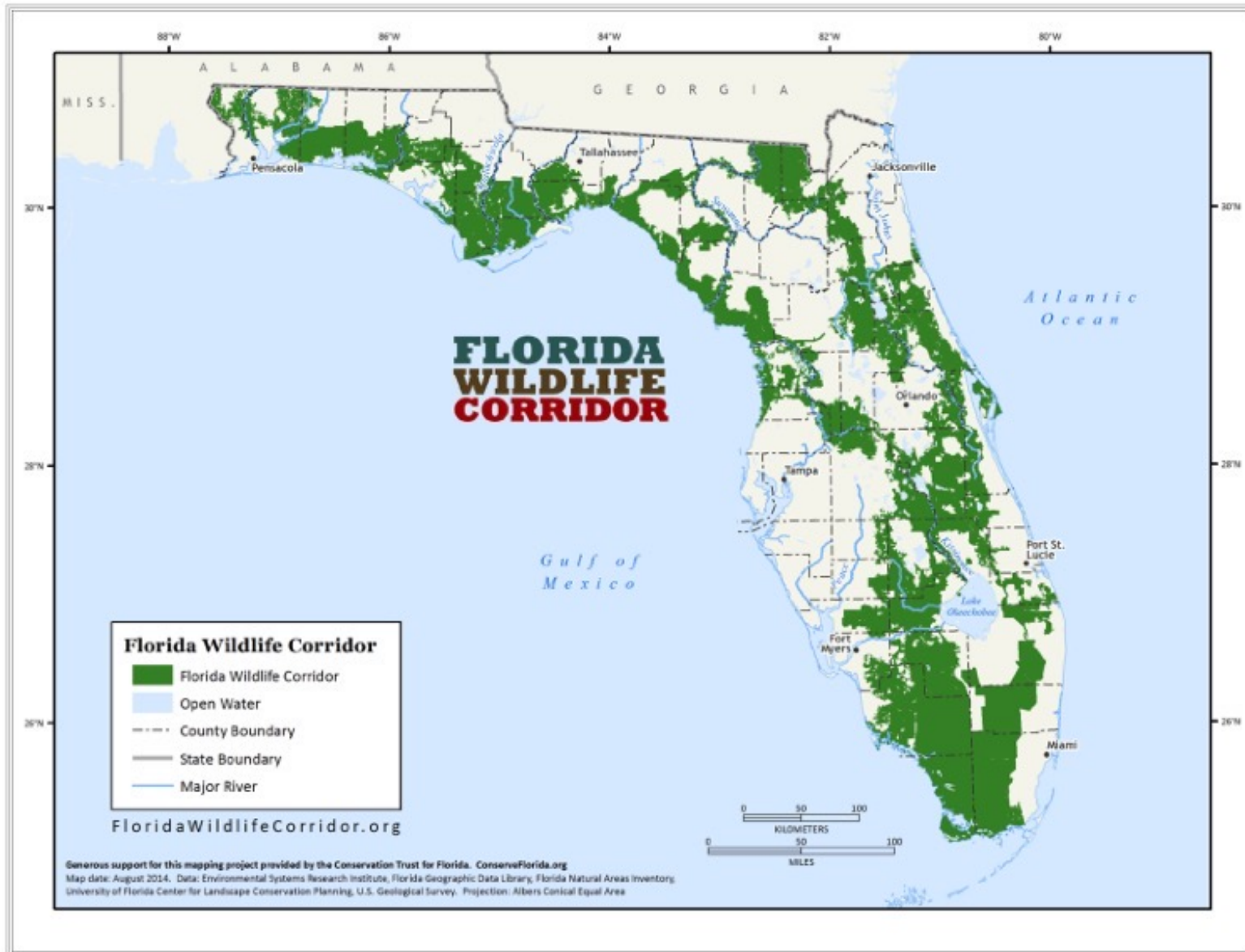


Florida Legacy Act 2016  
\$200 million for Everglades  
\$50 million for springs  
\$5 million for Lake Apopka

2023 Amendments  
\$100 million for Florida Forever  
From Amendment 1





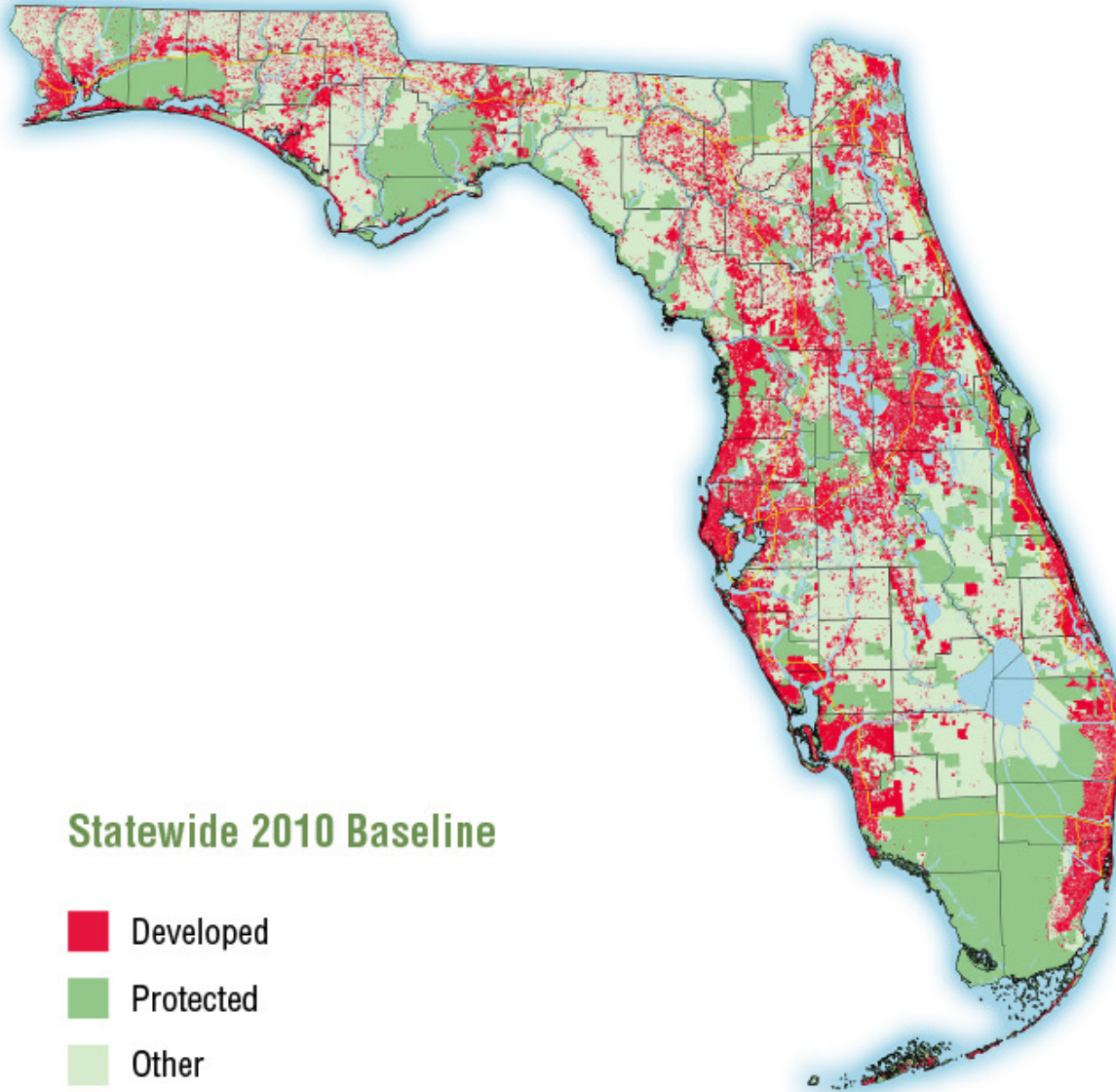


Florida Wildlife Corridor Act  
17 million acres  
11 million have been protected



Carlton Ward and the  
Florida Wildlife Corridor  
Expedition





Currently 10 million acres or 31% of Florida's land area is in Conservation.

Losing 100,000 acres per year







**Florida Area: 34,721,280**

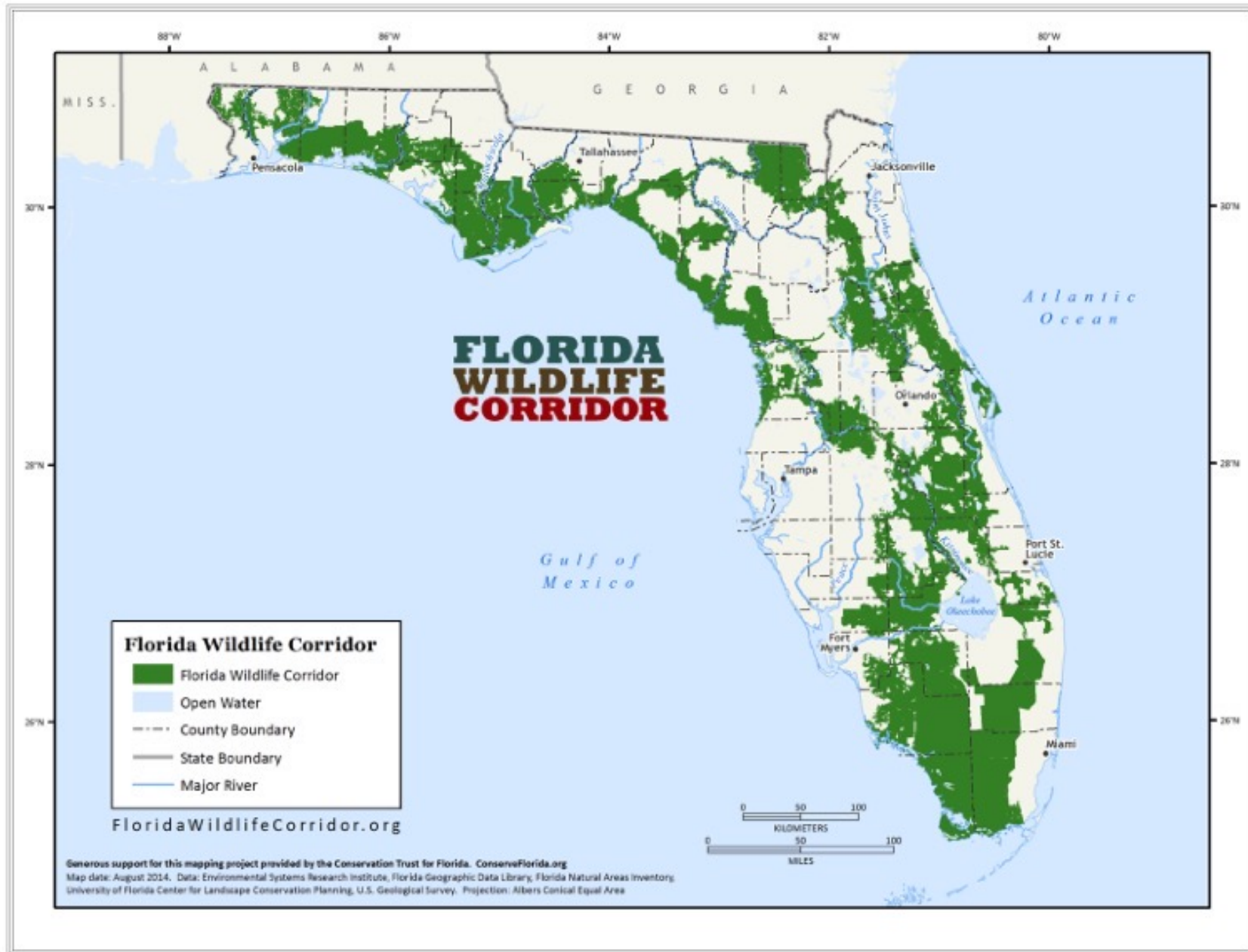
**TILF Lands given away 19,000,000  
55% of all Florida lands**

**Total Conservation lands 10,936,887  
32% of all Florida lands**

**Ecological Greenways Map  
19,520,692. acres  
56% of all Florida lands**

**The Nature Conservancy Map  
15,970,406 acres  
45% of all Florida**

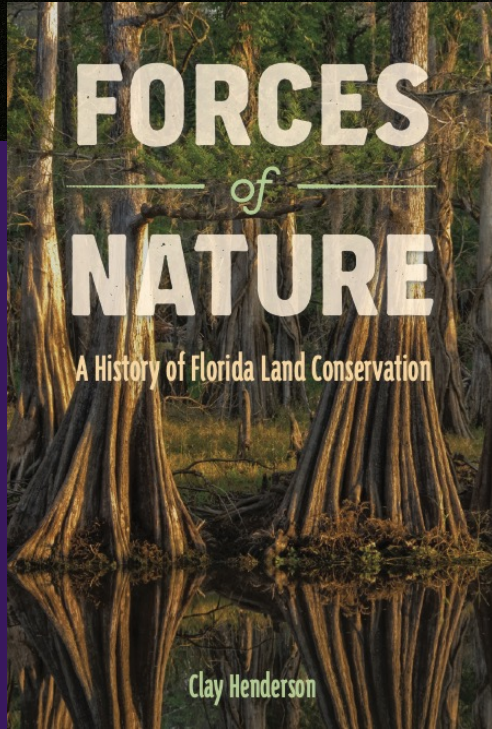




Florida will need to  
Conserve at least 40%  
Of its land are to protect  
Its biodiversity.



# Thank You!



## ClayHenderson

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FLORIDA RECREATION  
& PARK ASSOCIATION

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