

Jim Beever and Tim Walker  
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

# A Unified Conservation Easement Mapping and Database for the State of Florida

Florida Panther Recovery Implementation Team  
Transportation Sub Team  
Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center  
January 29, 2015



The CHNEP in cooperation with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has been funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) District IV to implement a project to identify and map all the conservation easements in the State of Florida. This includes all federal, state , regional, and local government; private land trusts and conservation organizations, corporation and individually held conservation easements.

This includes all federal, state , regional, and local government; private land trusts and conservation organizations, corporation and individually held conservation easements.



At the beginning of the project there was no complete map and database for all the conservation easements in Florida. It is the intent of this project to address and rectify this.

The project collects existing Geographic Information System (GIS) layers, and unmapped conservation easement information and mapping it into a single GIS project that would be useful for the regulatory agencies, land planning entities, and private.

This tool will provide a more complete picture of the extent and connectivity of landscape scale conservation in the State of Florida and assist in identifying critical gaps in wetland watersheds conservation planning that could potentially be addressed by public, public-private partnership, and private conservation efforts.

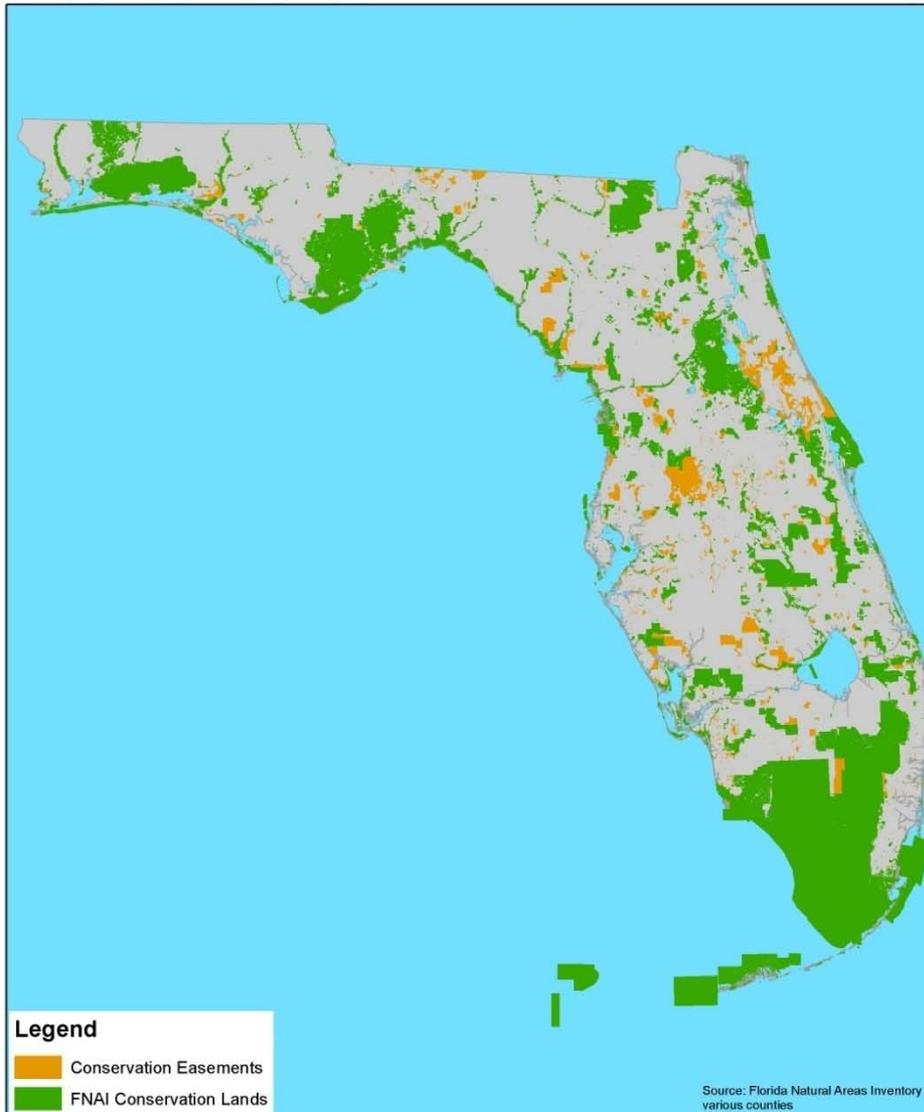
**The map will also assist public and private planners infrastructure and development and regulators from encountering unexpected conflicts with existing conservation lands that they may not currently be unaware of.**



# Completed to Date

Florida Natural Areas Inventory  
Florida National Estuary Programs  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Northwest Florida Water Management District  
South Florida Water Management District  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
St. Johns River Water Management District  
Suwannee River Water Management District  
341 easements in 35 of 67 Florida Counties  
5 of 21 Florida Land Trusts.





**Legend**

- Conservation Easements
- FNAI Conservation Lands

Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory  
various counties

**Conservation Lands and Easements**

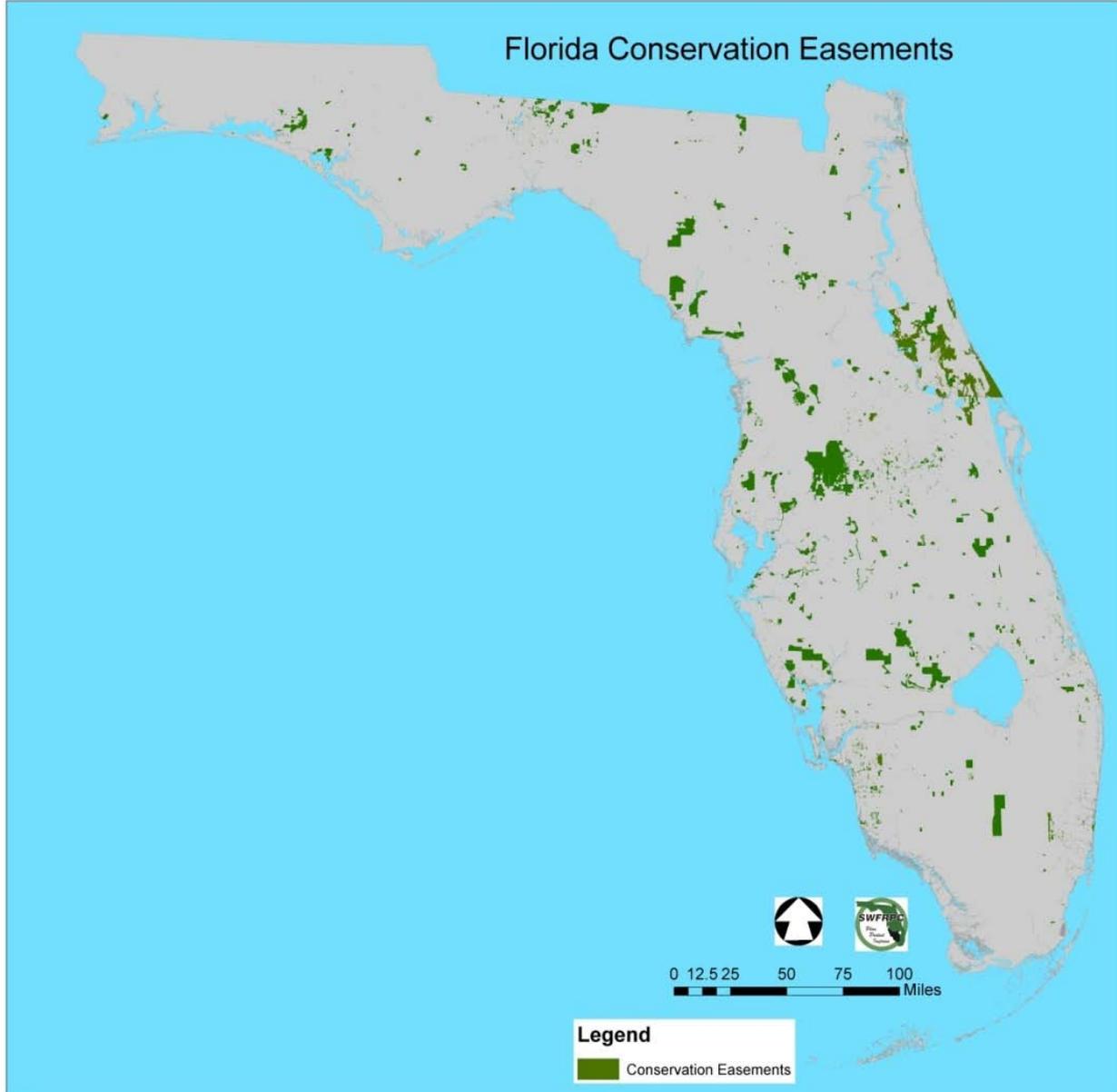
A north arrow pointing upwards and a scale bar showing 0, 10, 20, 30, and 40 miles.

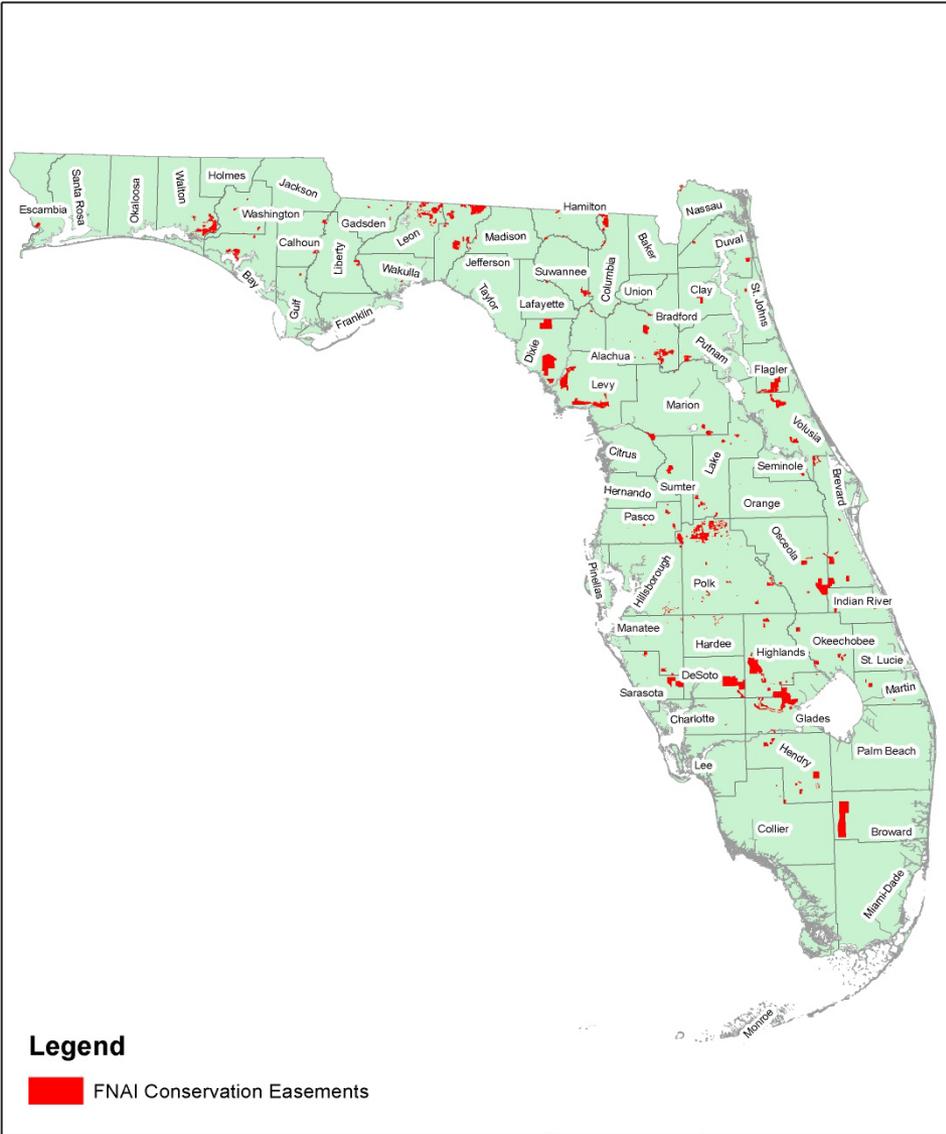
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Regional Planning  
Council

Cons\_easements\_FNAICE\_and\_all\_8x11.mxd  
1/23/2015



# Florida Conservation Easements





**Legend**

 FNAI Conservation Easements

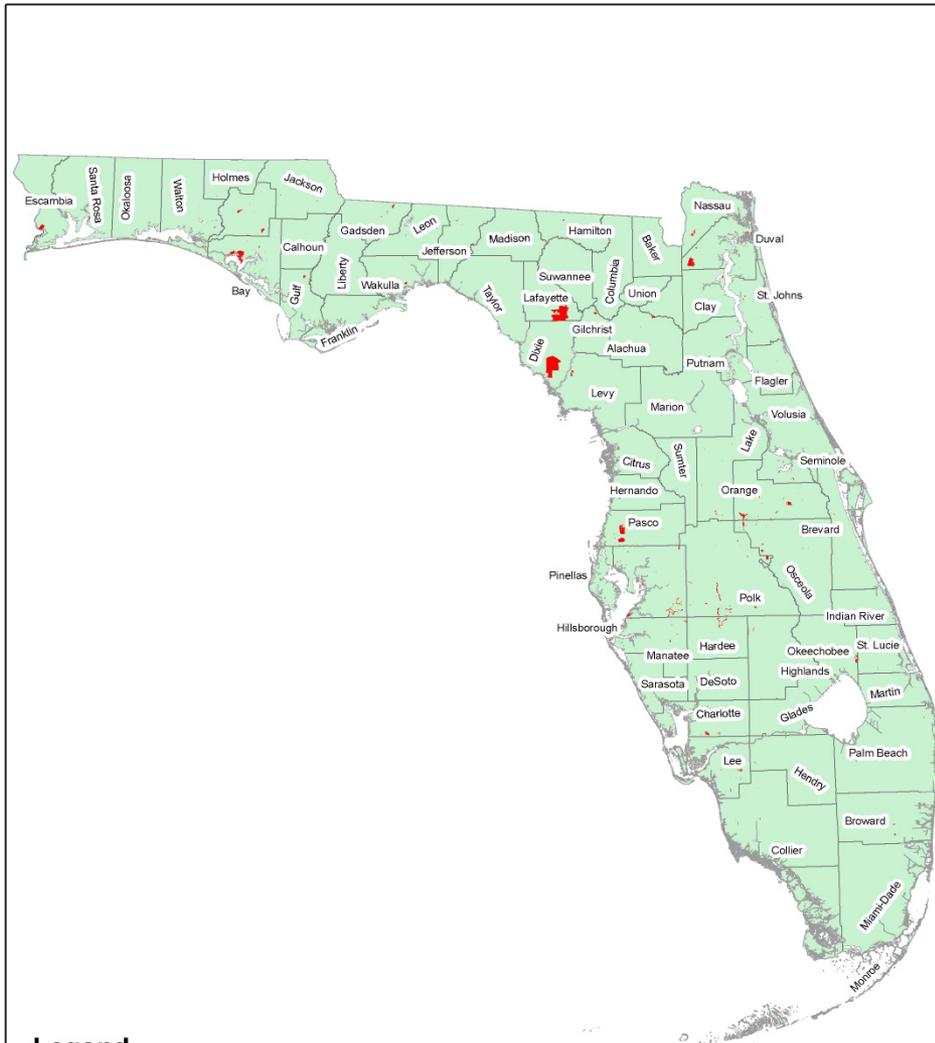
**Conservation Easements  
Florida Natural Areas Inventory**




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11/15/2013 Cons\_easements\_FNAI.mxd





**Legend**

 FDEP Conservation Easements

**Conservation Easements  
Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection**



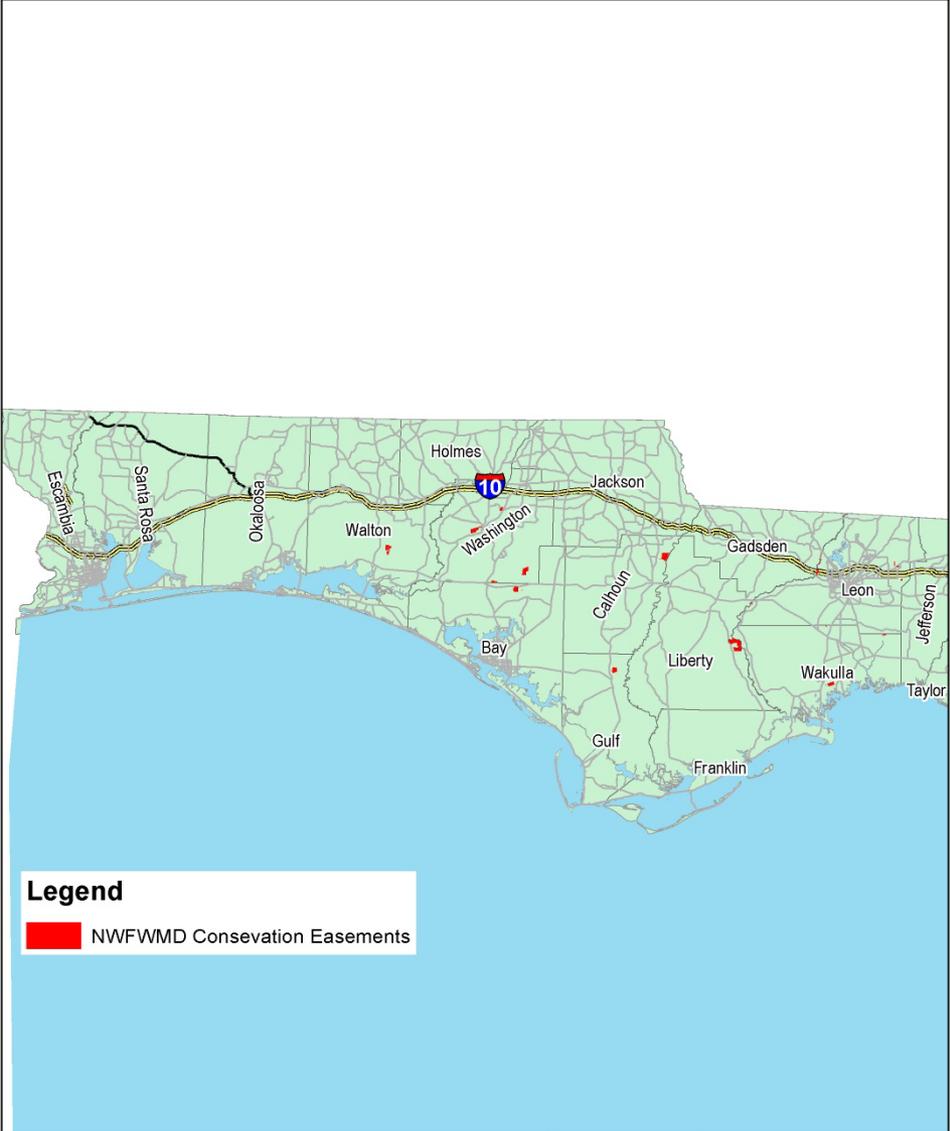
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Miles



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Regional Planning  
Council

11/15/2013 Cons\_easements\_FDEP.mxd

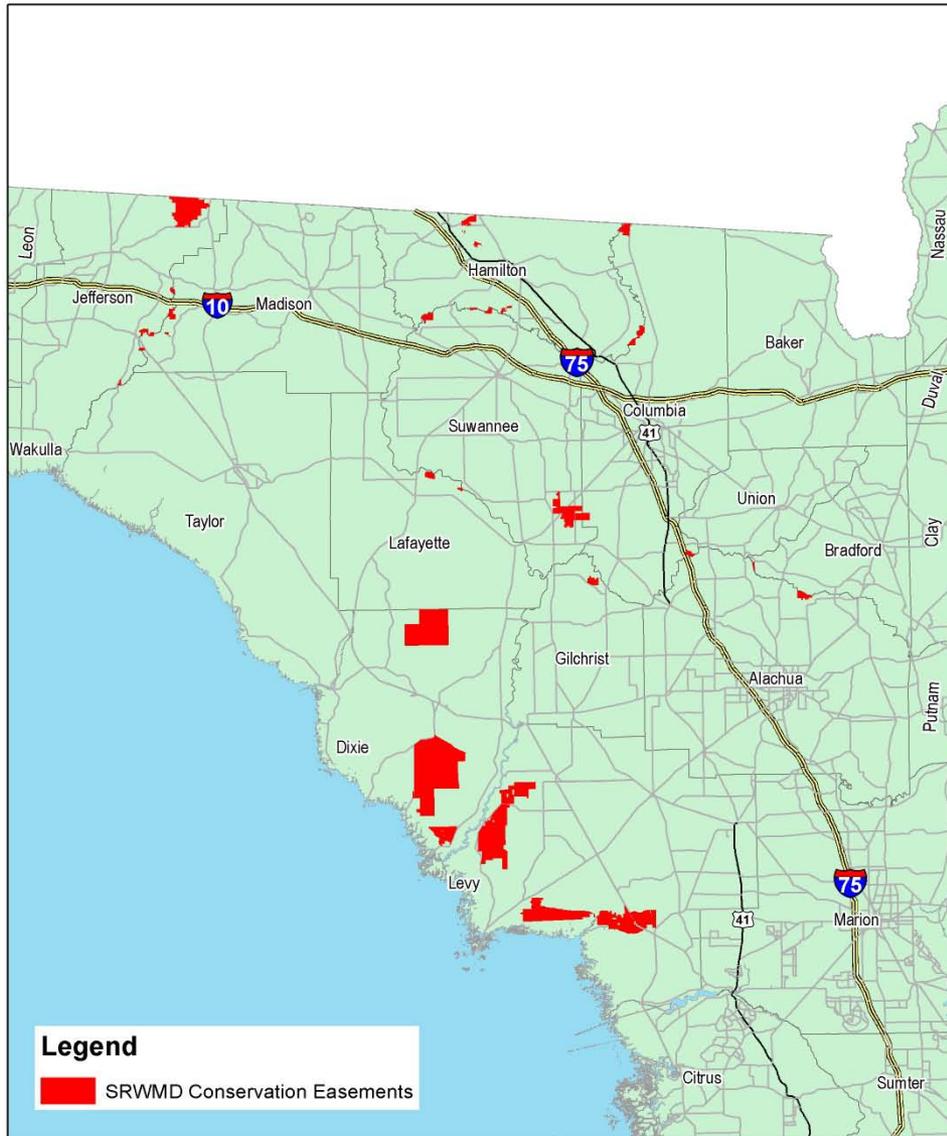




**Legend**  
■ NFWFMD Conservation Easements

**Conservation Easements  
 Northwest Florida  
 Water Management District**



**Legend**  
 SRWMD Conservation Easements

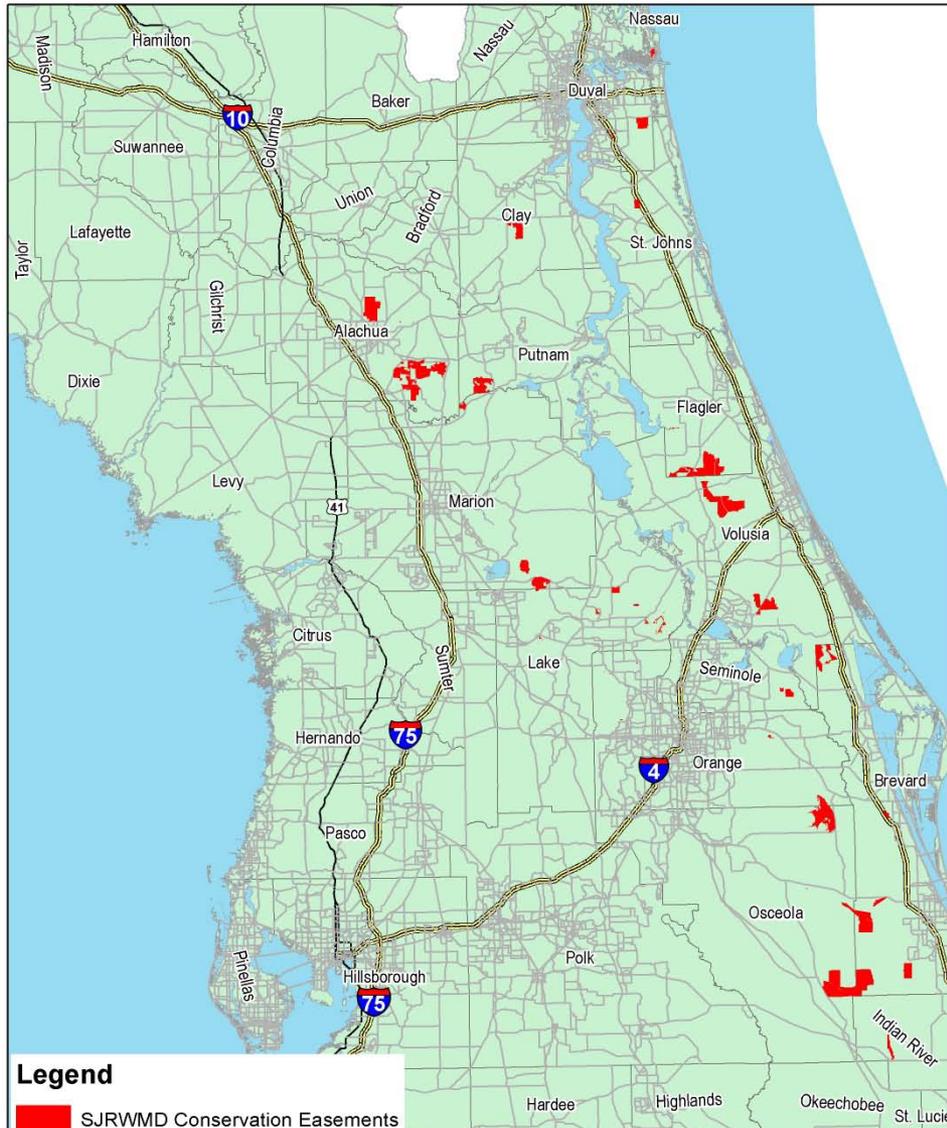
**Conservation Easements  
 Suwannee River  
 Water Management District**




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 Council

11/19/2013 Cons\_easements\_SRWMD.mxd





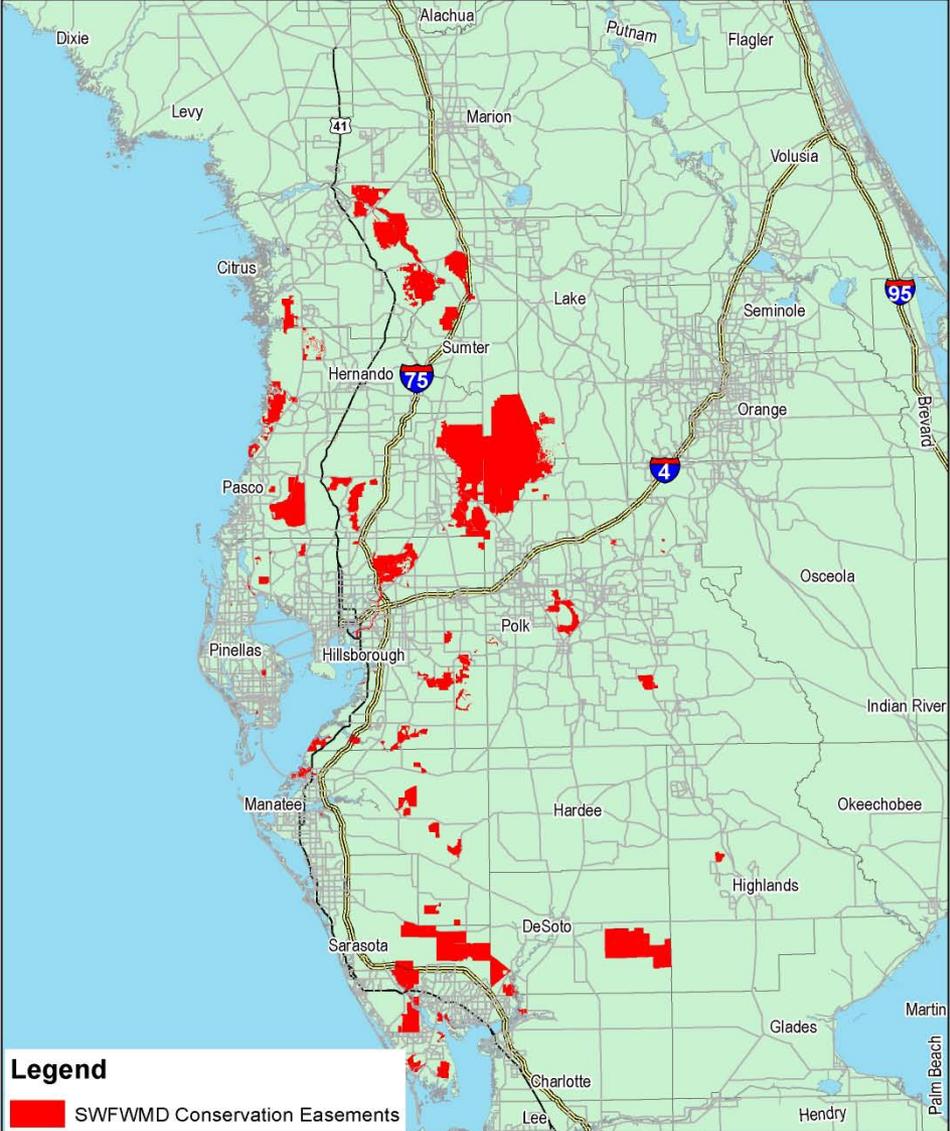
**Legend**  
 SJRWMD Conservation Easements

**Conservation Easements  
 St. Johns River  
 Water Management District**



 Southwest Florida  
 Regional Planning  
 Council  
 11/22/2013 Cons\_easements\_SJWMD.mxd





**Legend**

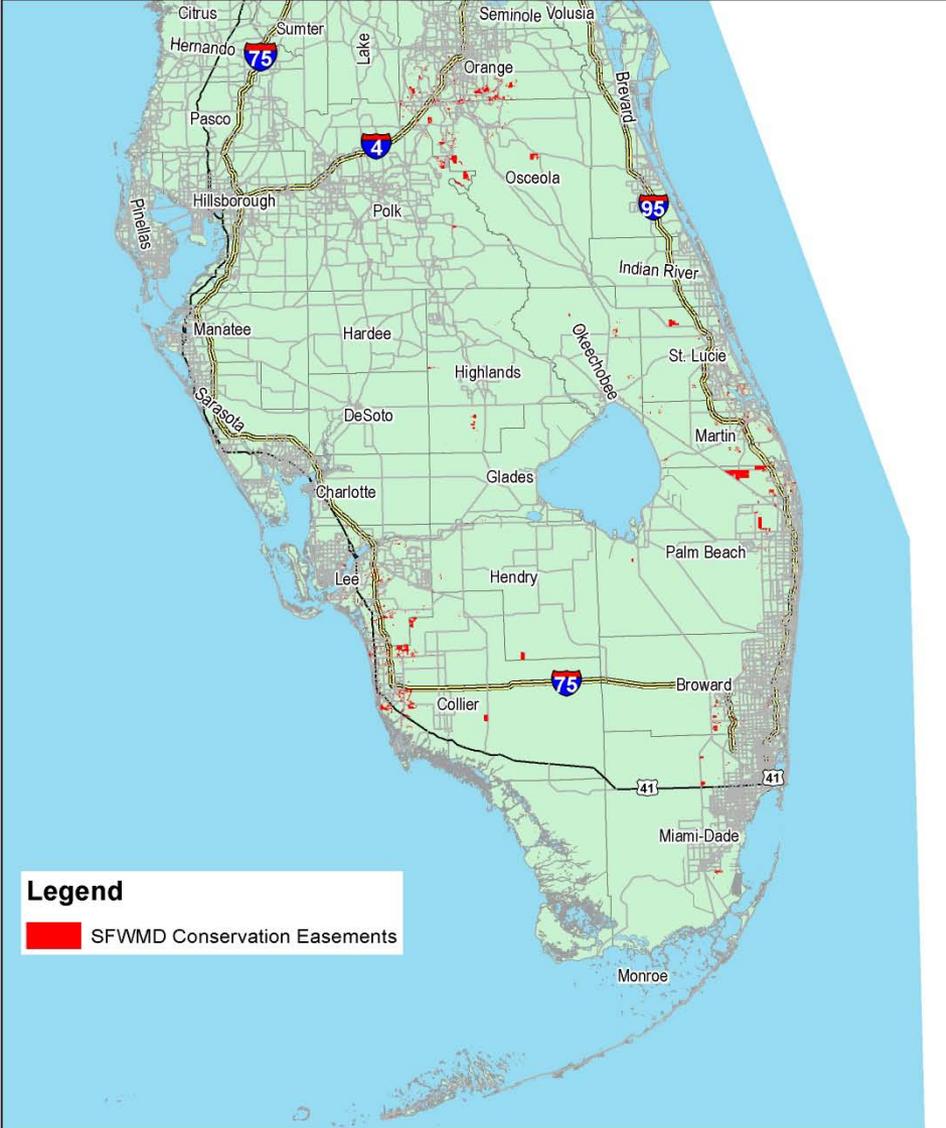
 SWFWMD Conservation Easements

**Conservation Easements  
Southwest Florida  
Water Management District**



11/22/2013 Cons\_easements\_SWFWMD.mxd





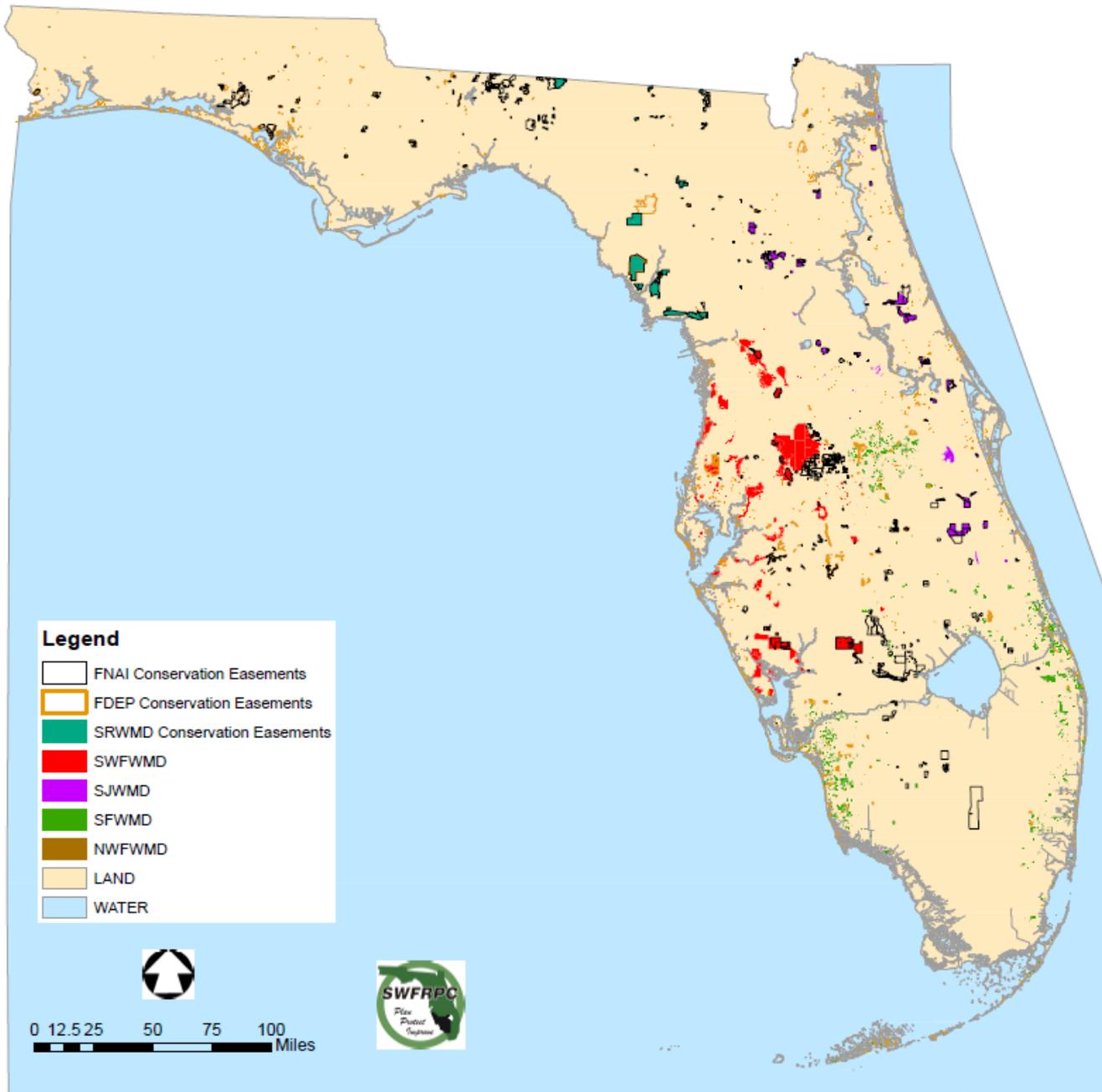
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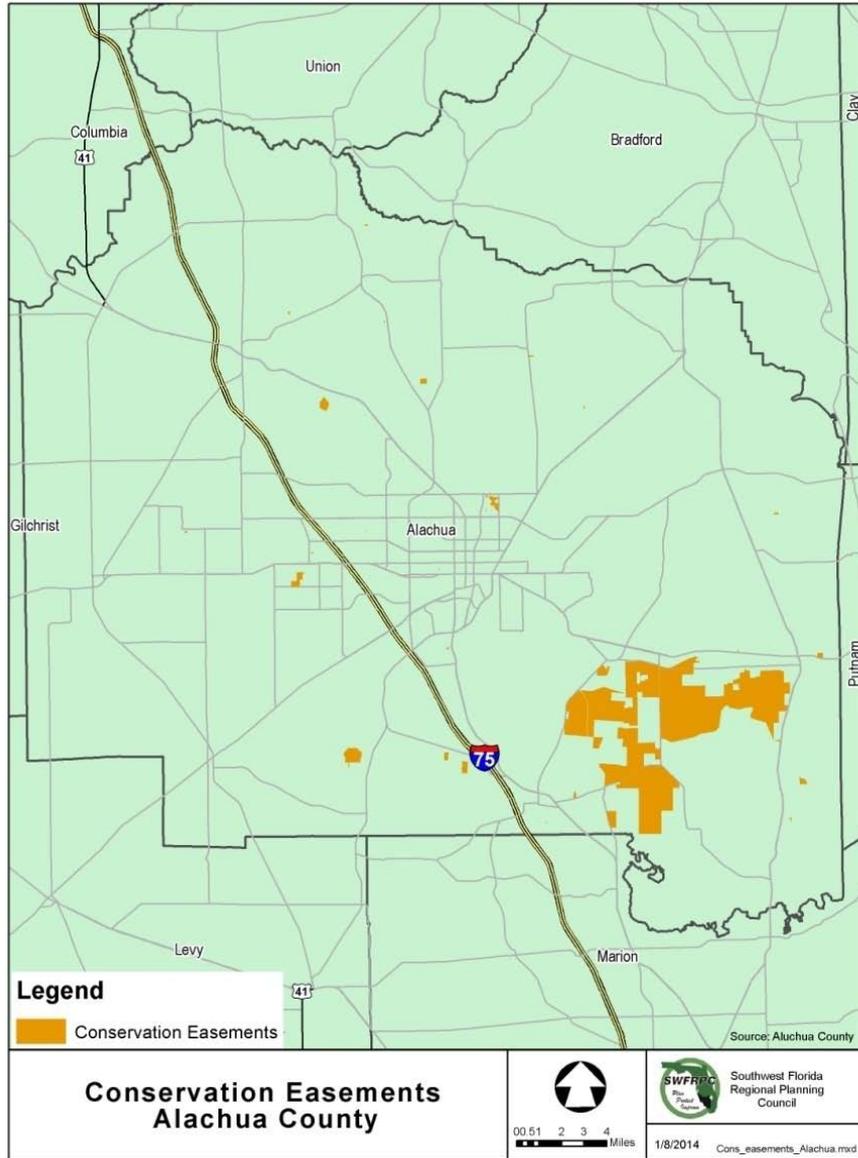
**Conservation Easements  
 South Florida  
 Water Management District**

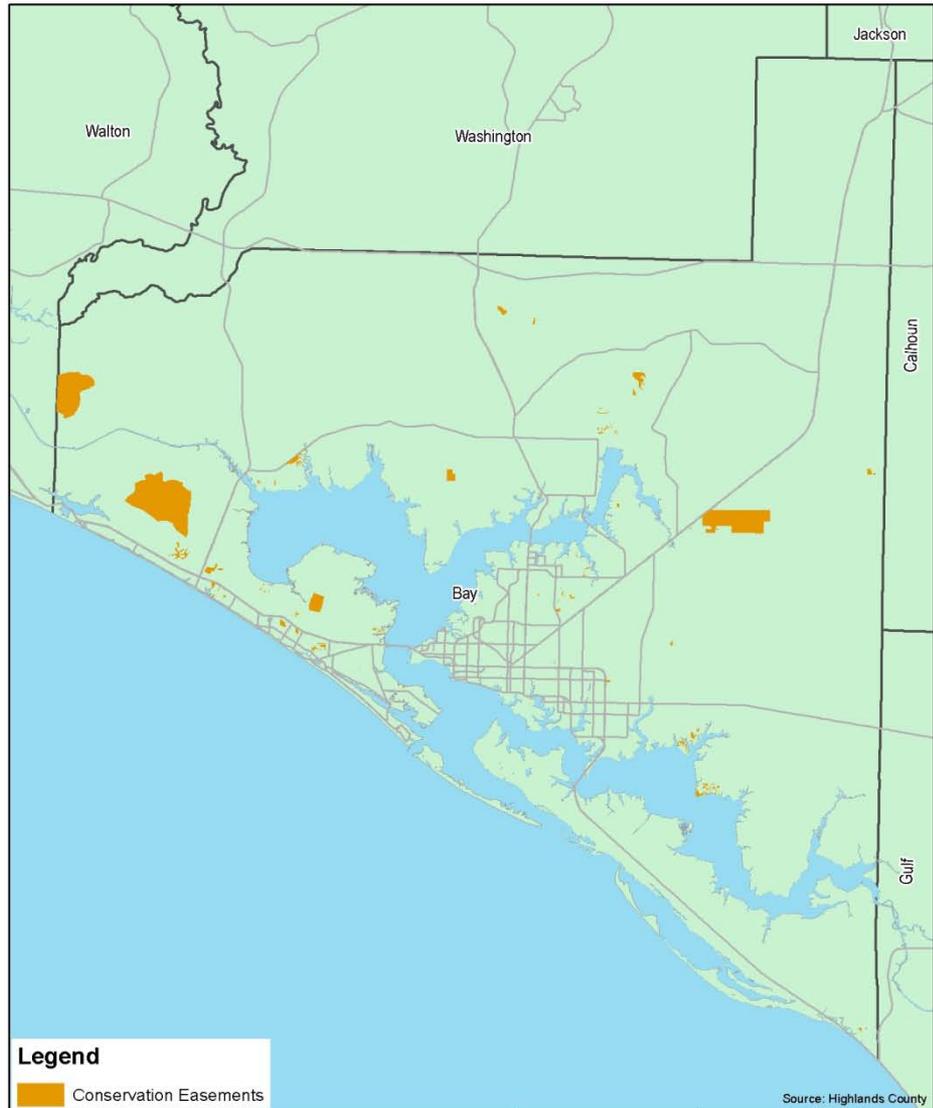


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 Council  
 11/22/2013 Cons\_easements\_SFWMD.mxd









**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

Source: Highlands County

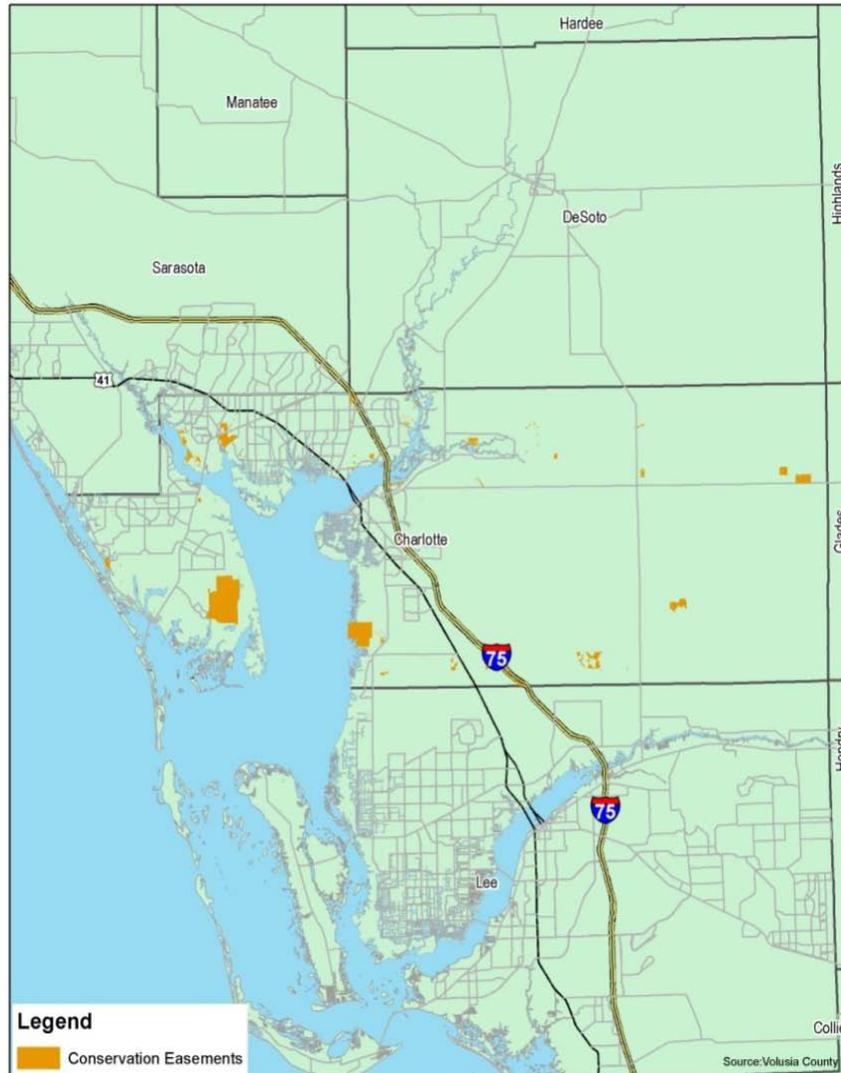
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 Council  
 9/15/2014      Cons\_easements\_bay.mxd







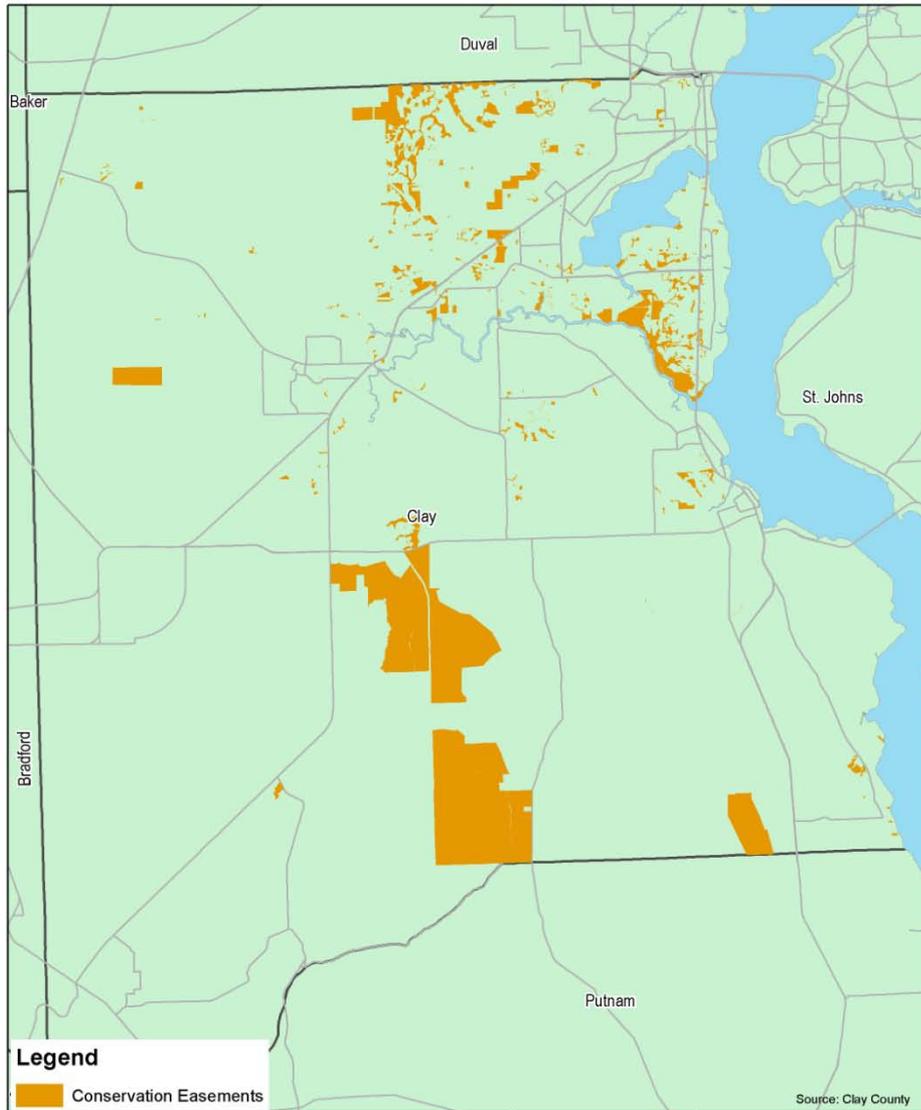
**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

**Conservation Easements  
 Charlotte County**



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 Regional Planning  
 Council  
 1/21/2014 Cons\_easements\_charlotte.mxd

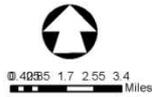




**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

Source: Clay County

### Conservation Easements from Clay County



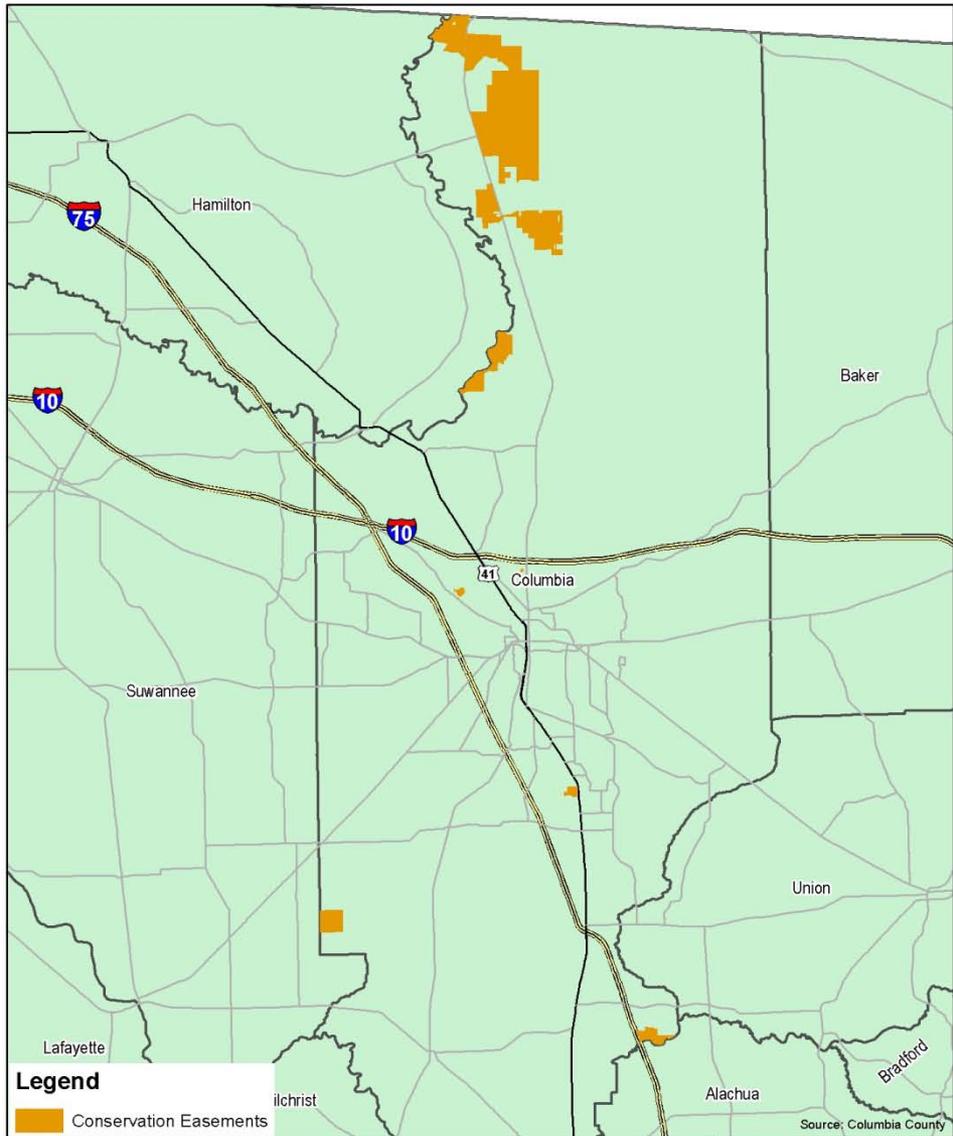
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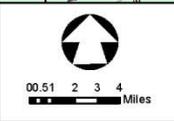
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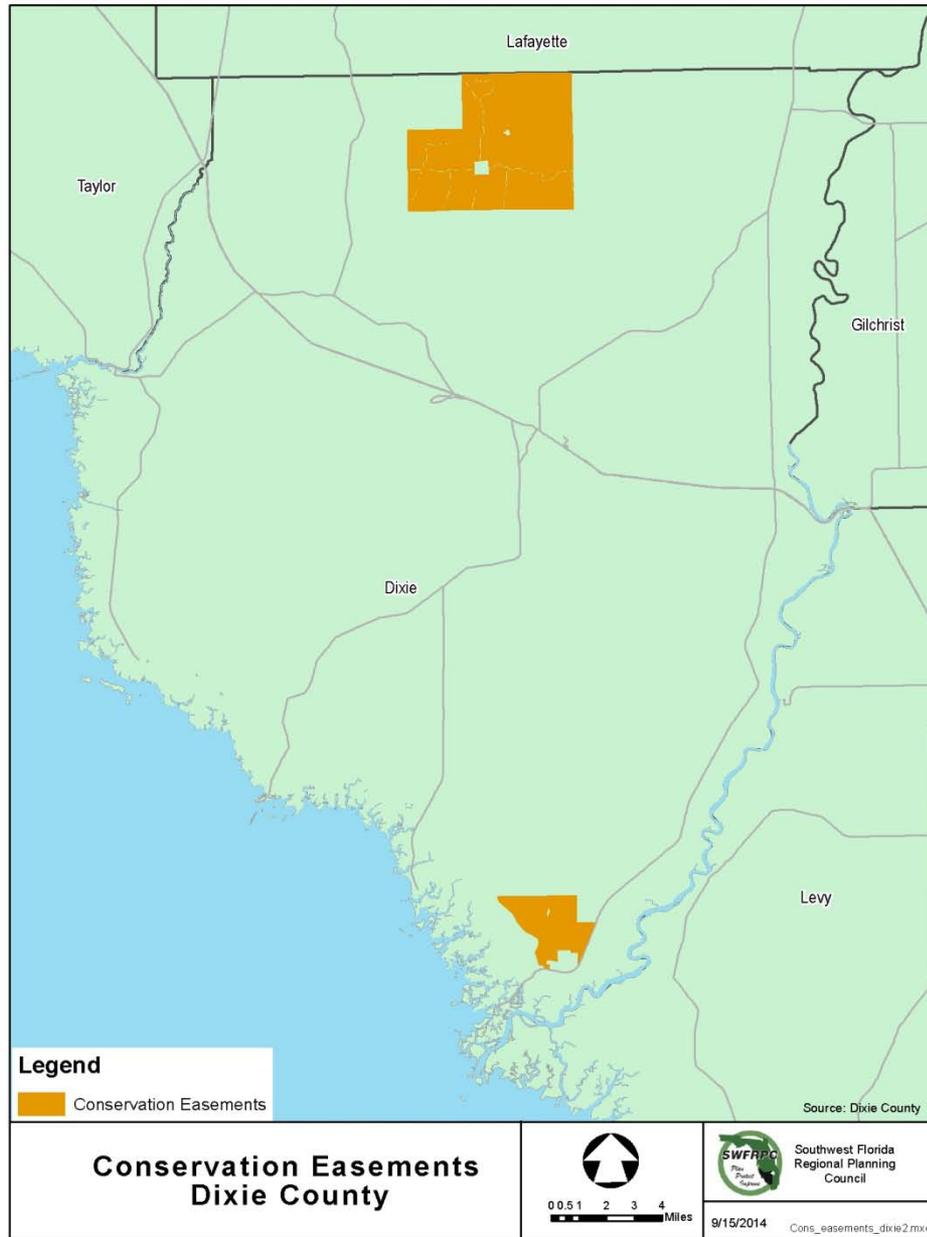


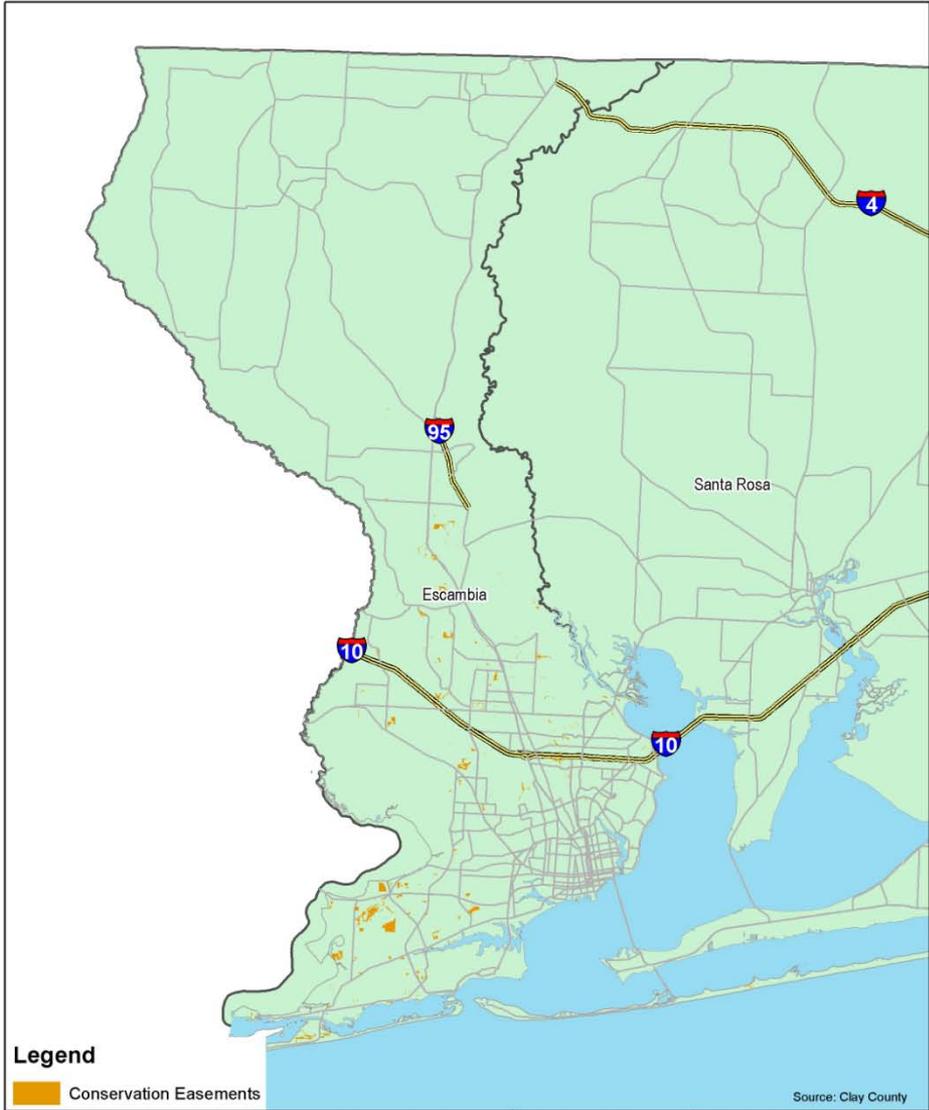




**Conservation Easements  
Columbia County**





**Legend**

 Conservation Easements

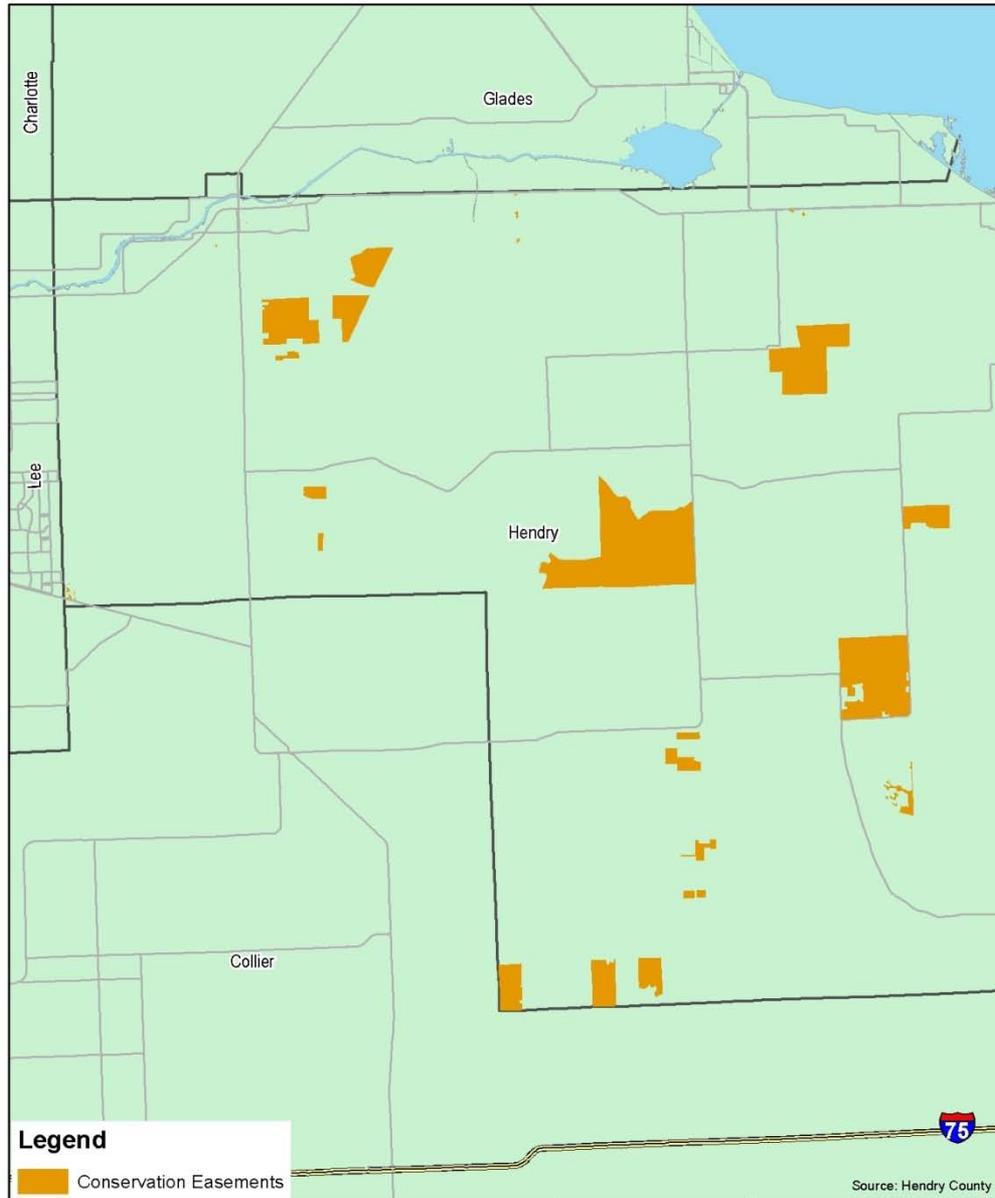
Source: Clay County

**Conservation Easements from Escambia County**



1/23/2015 Cons\_easements\_escambia.mxd

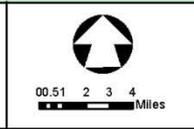




**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

Source: Hendry County

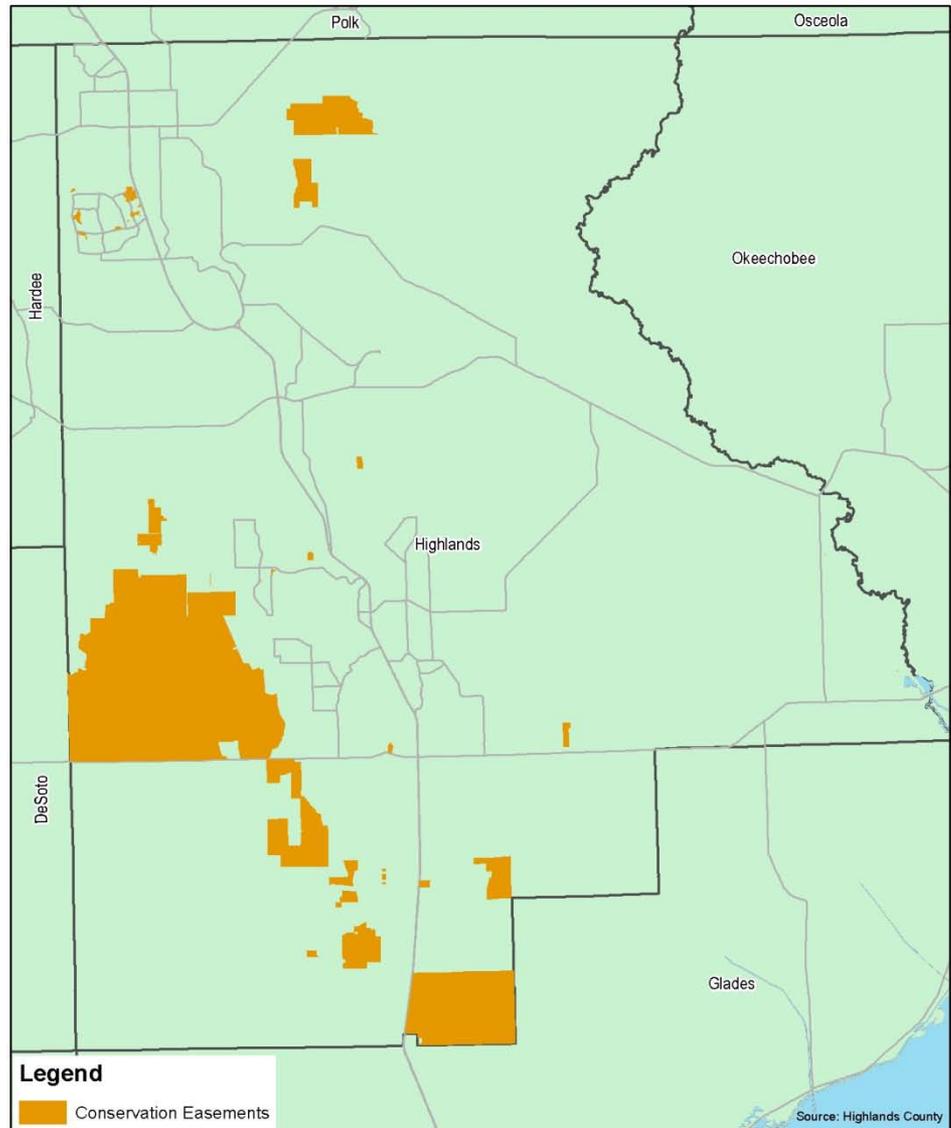
## Conservation Easements Hendry County



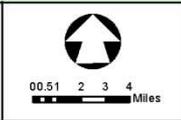

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9/15/2014    Cons\_easements\_hendry.mxd





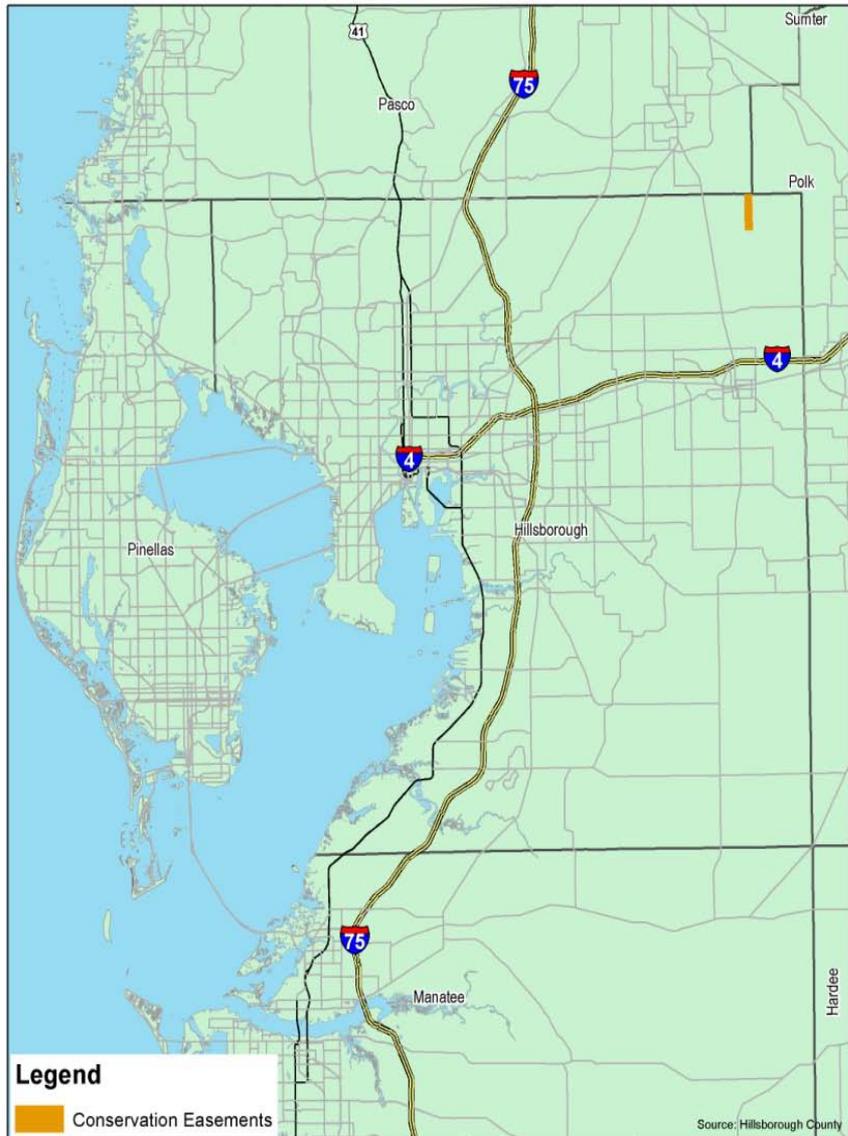
## Conservation Easements Highlands County



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**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

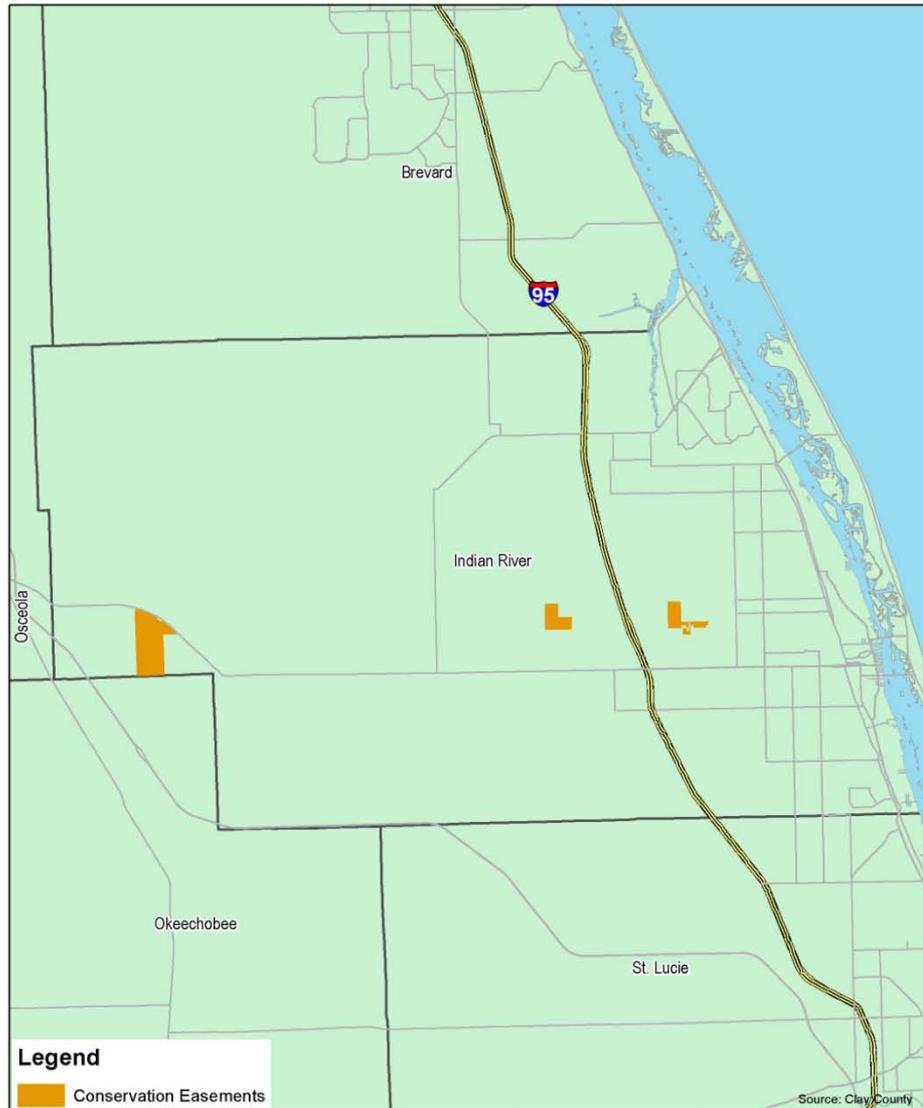
Source: Hillsborough County

### Conservation Easements Hillsborough County



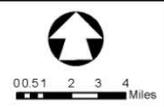
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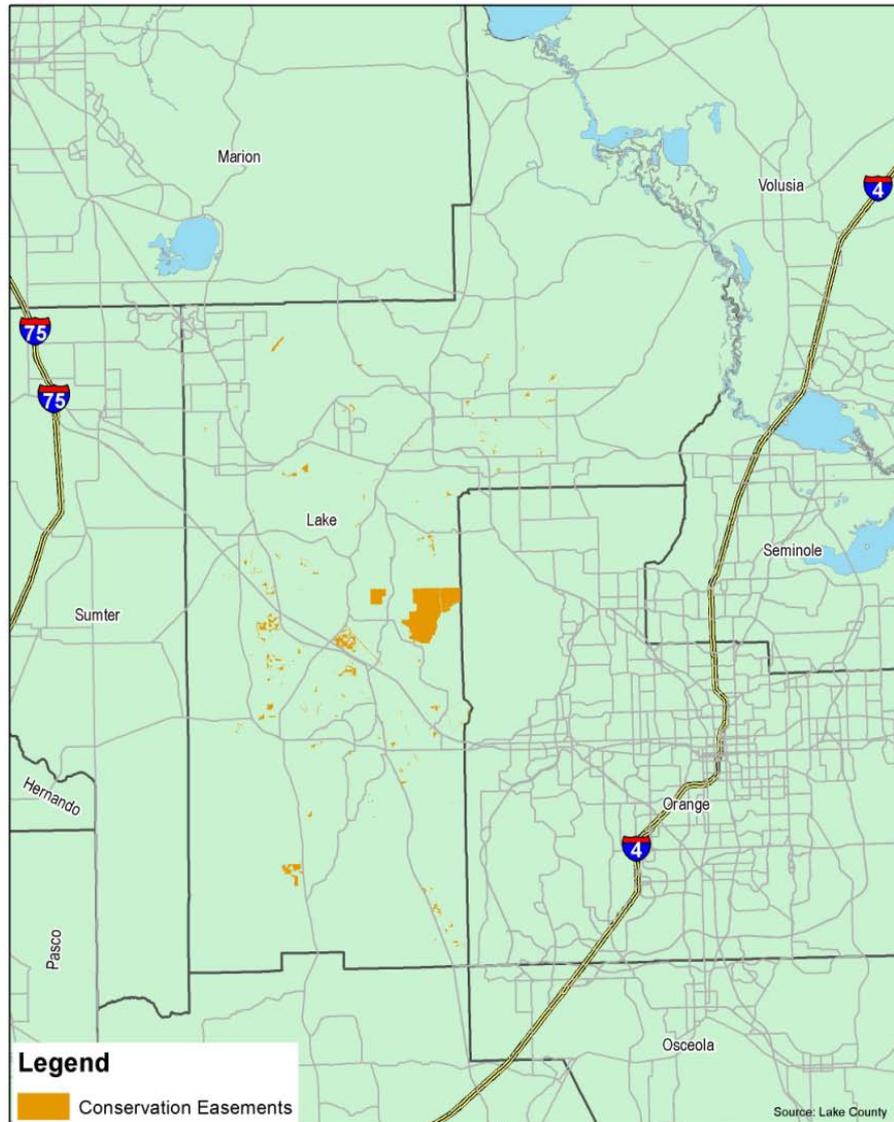
**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

### Conservation Easements from Indian River County




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1/23/2015 cons\_easements\_indian\_river.mxd



**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

Source: Lake County

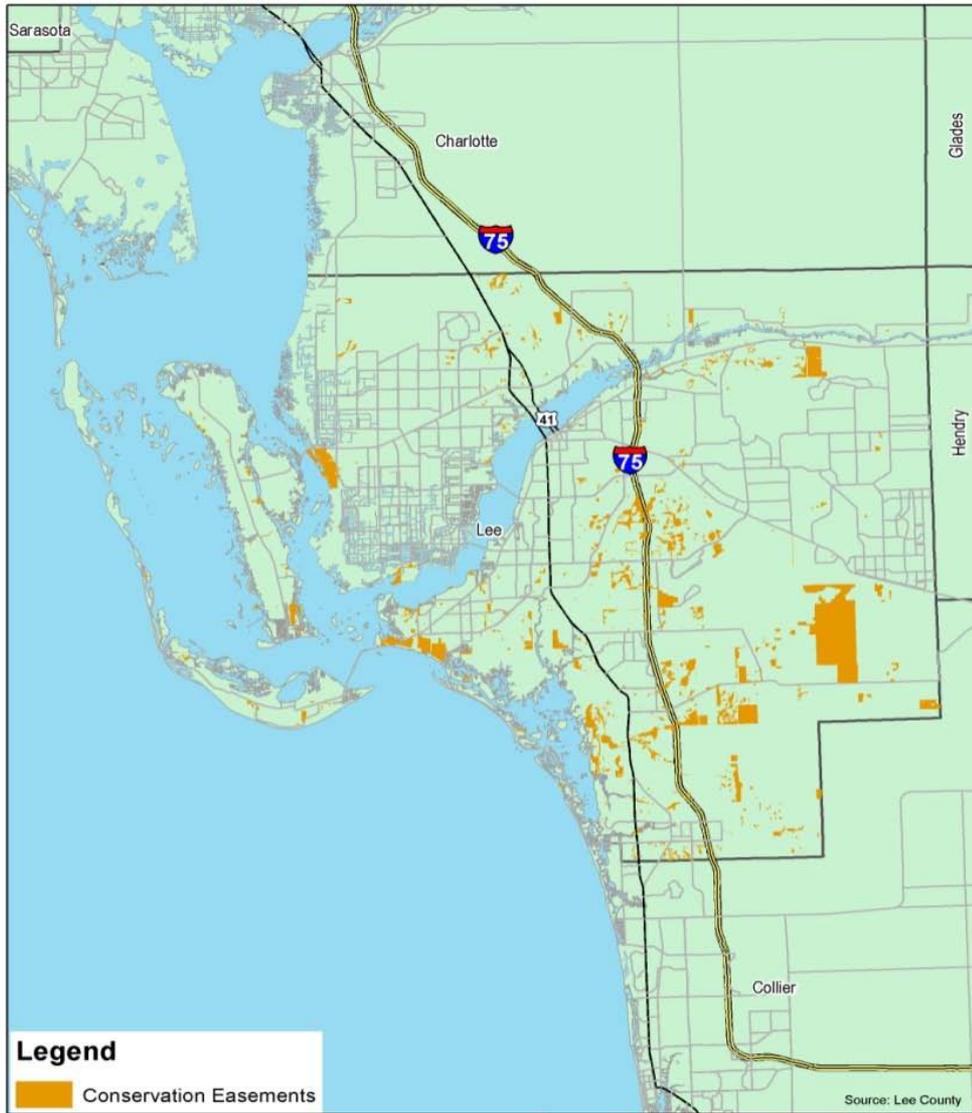
### Conservation Easements Lake County



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1/10/2014 Cons\_easements\_lake.mxd





**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

Source: Lee County

### Conservation Easements Lee County

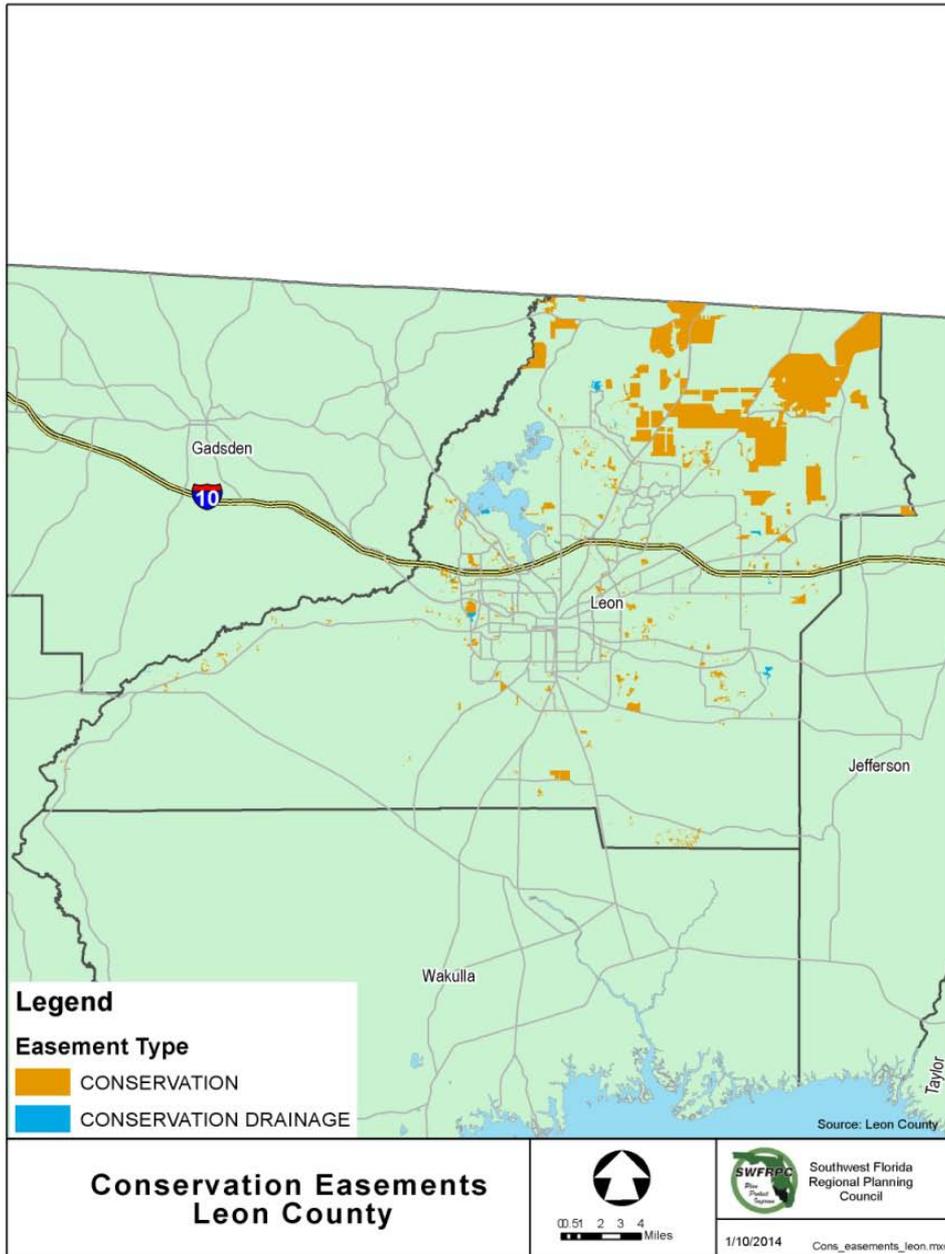


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Council

1/10/2014

Cons\_easements\_lee.mxd







**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

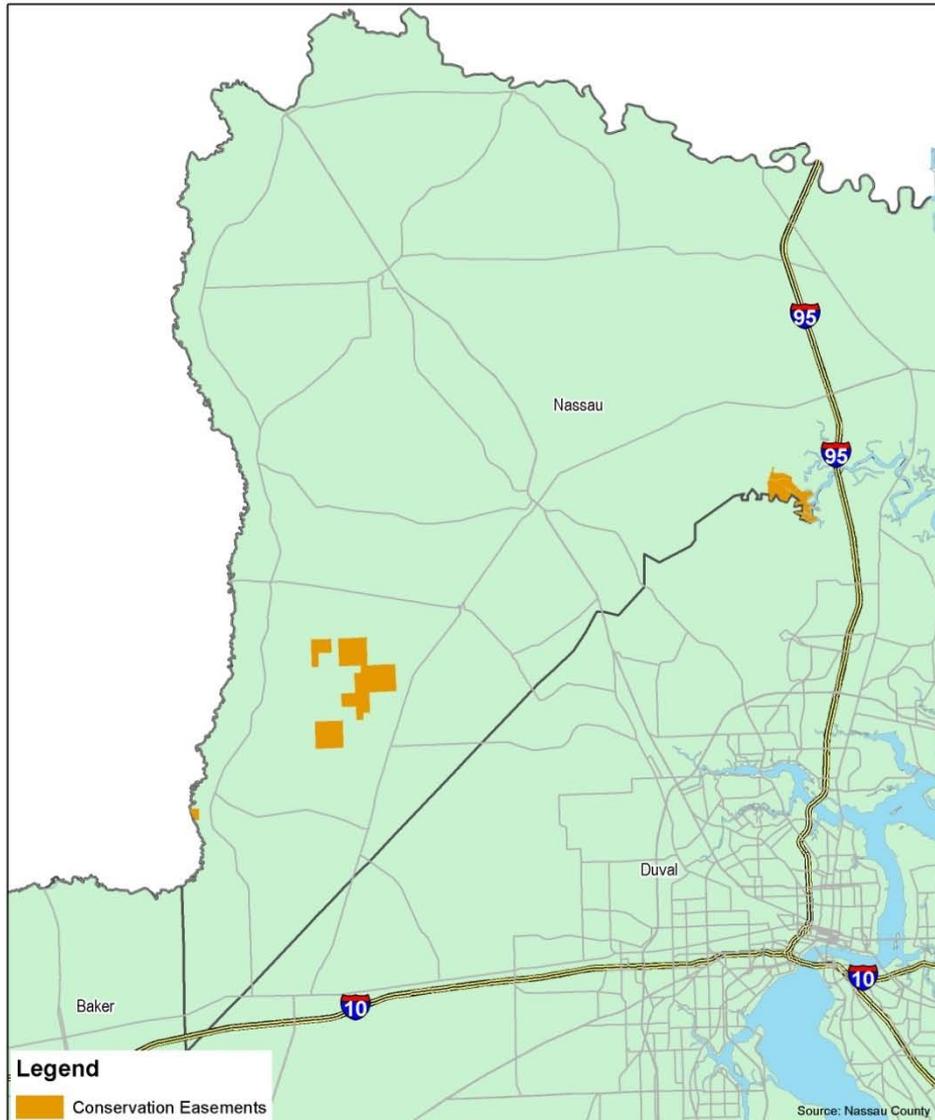
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9/15/2014 Cons\_easements\_manatee.mxd

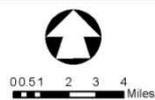




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 Conservation Easements

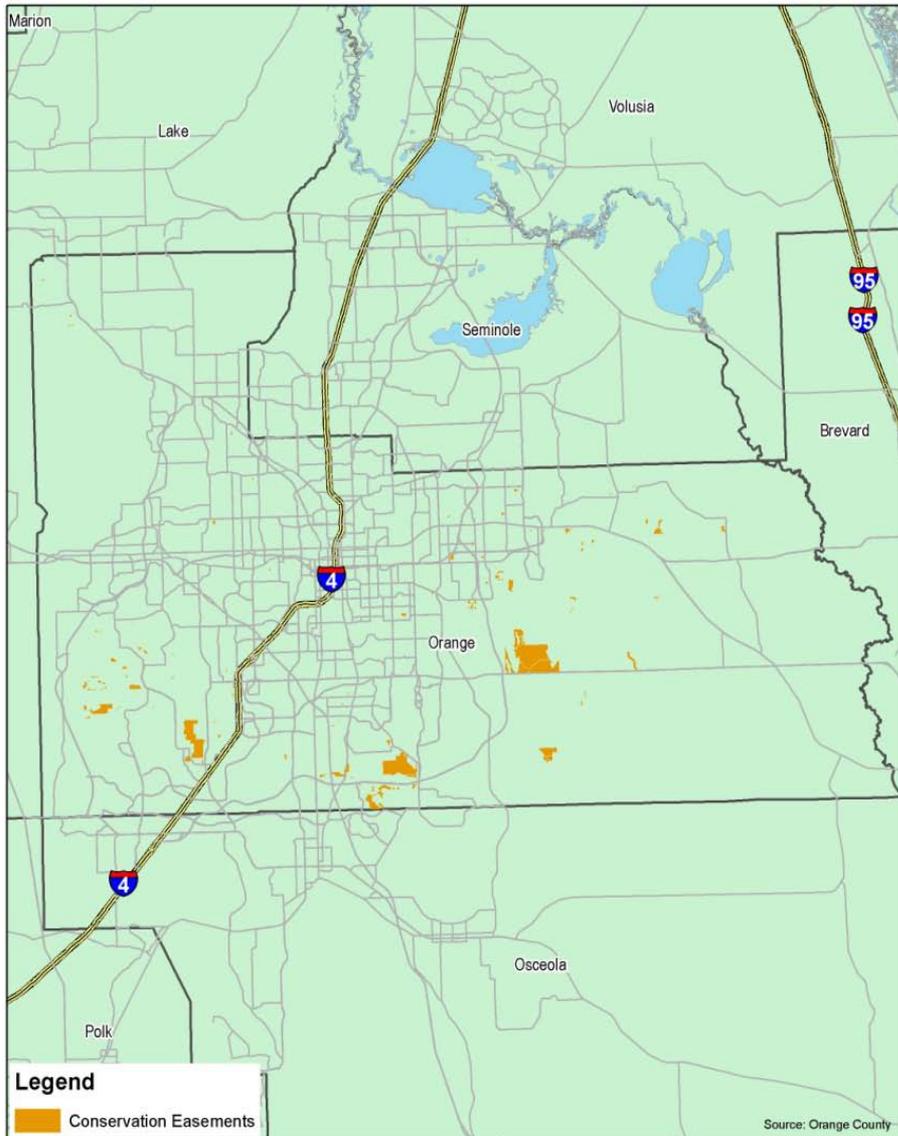
Source: Nassau County

## Conservation Easements from Nassau County



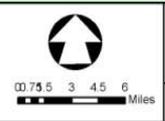

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 1/23/2015 Cons\_easements\_nassau.mxd





**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

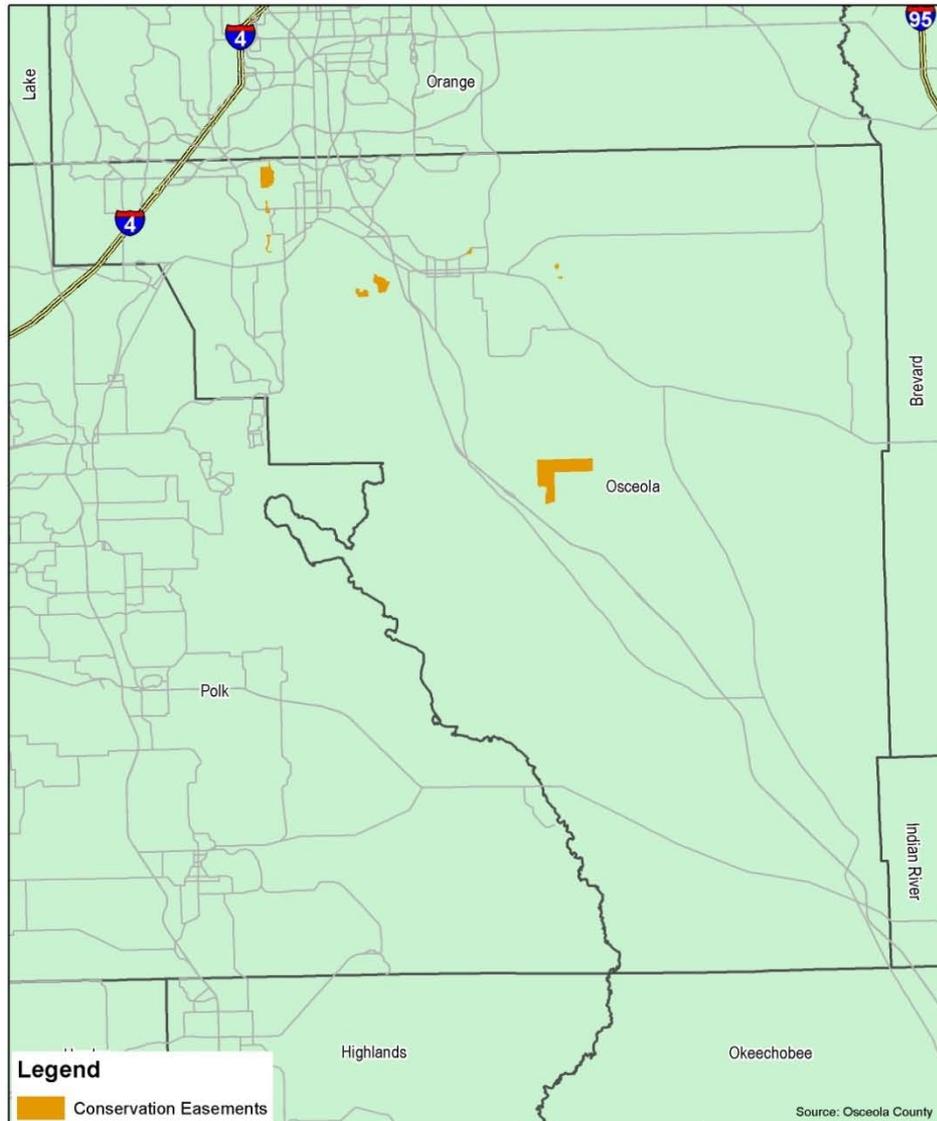
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2/11/2014 Cons\_easements\_orange.mxd





**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

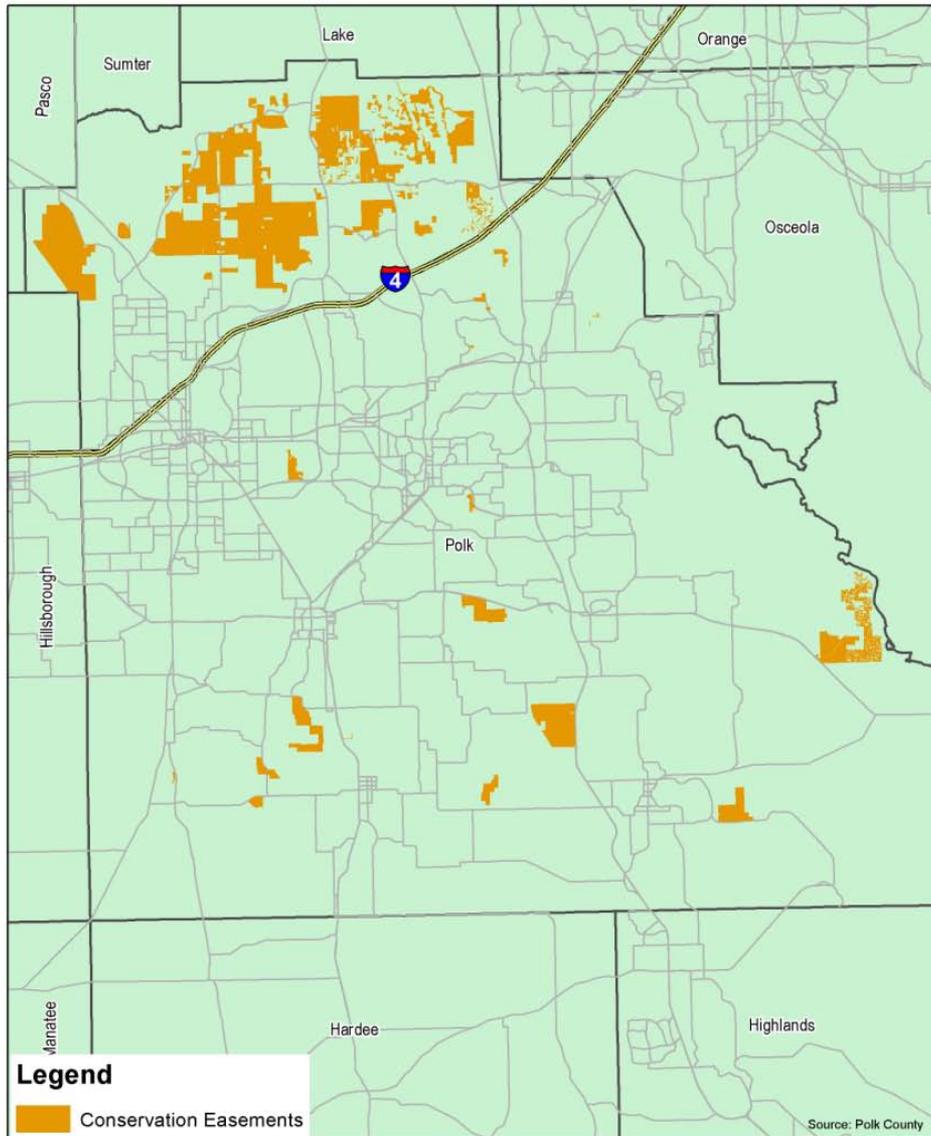
Source: Osceola County

### Conservation Easements from Osceola County



1/23/2015 Cons\_easements\_osceola.mxd

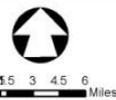




**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

Source: Polk County

### Conservation Easements Polk County

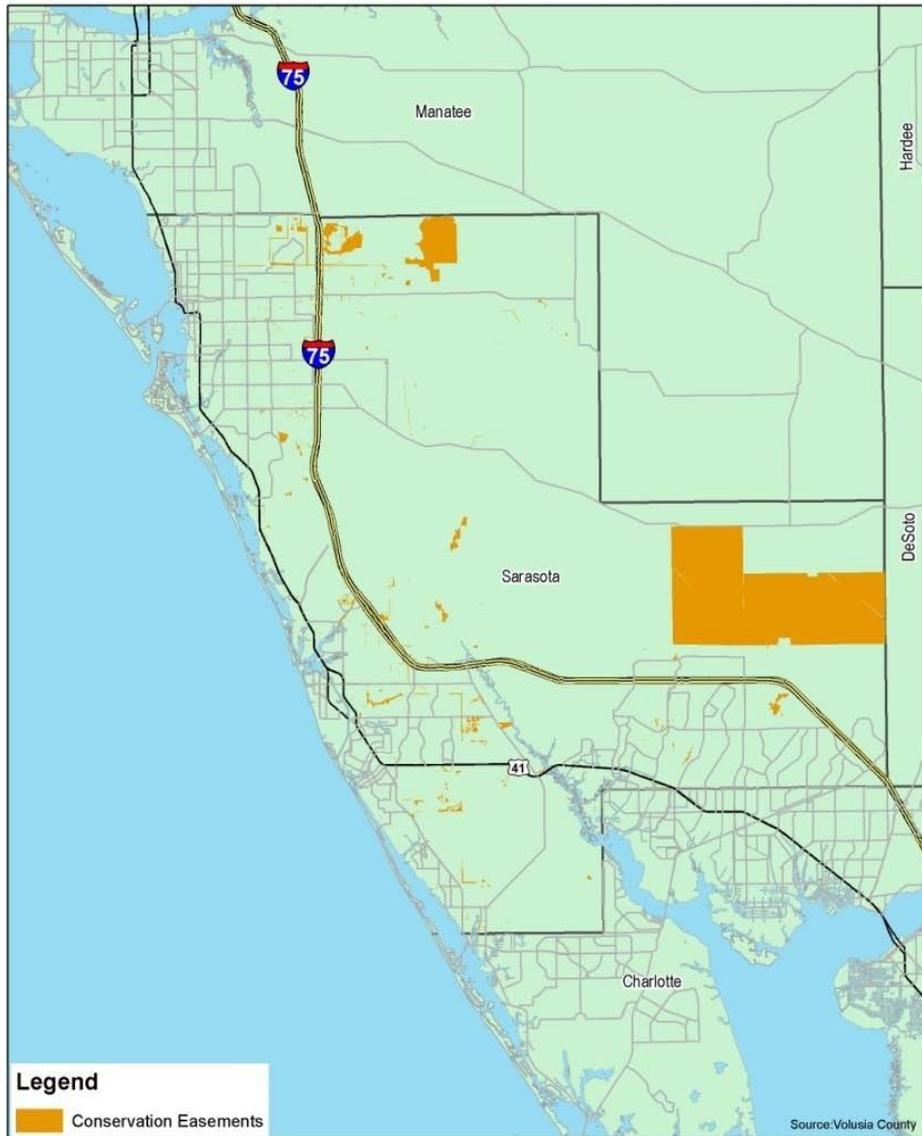


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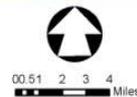
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**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

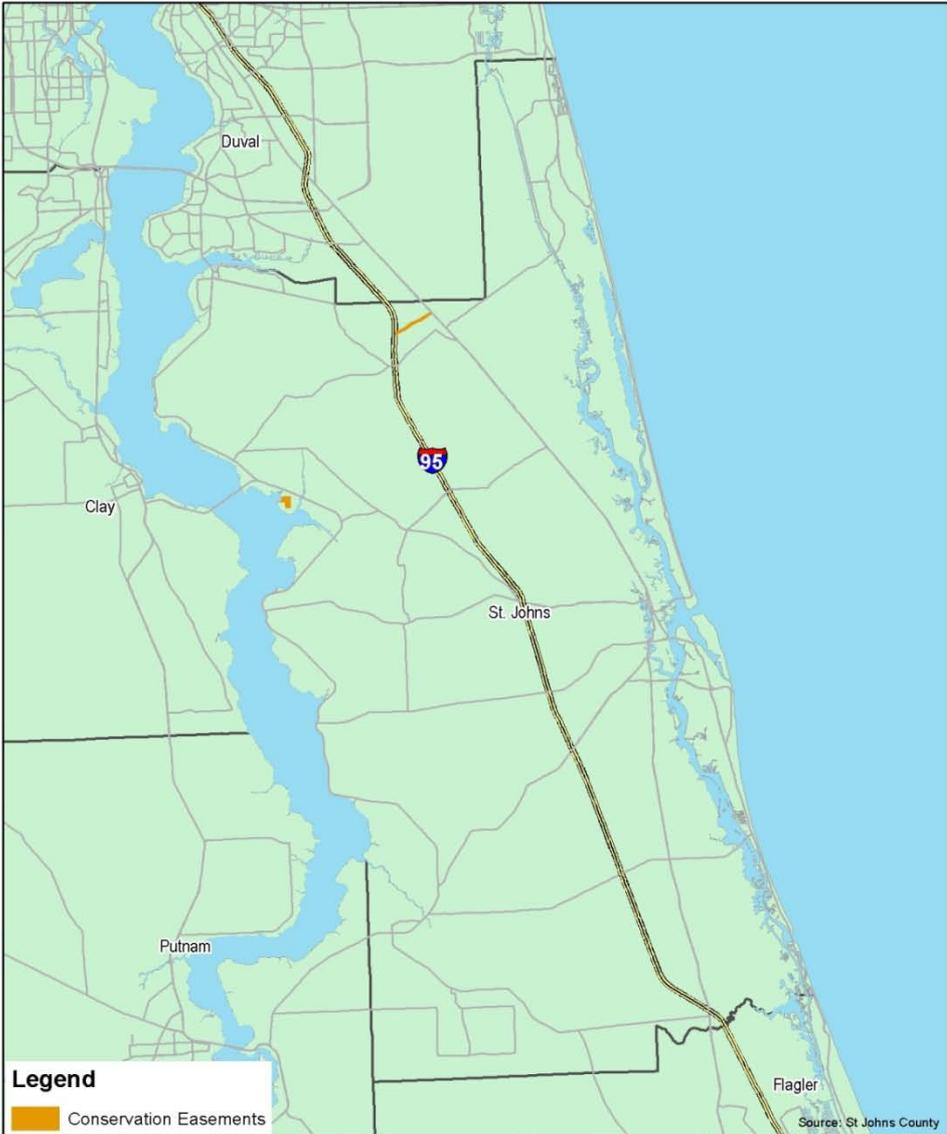
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1/21/2014 Cons\_easements\_sarasota.mxd





**Legend**  
 Conservation Easements

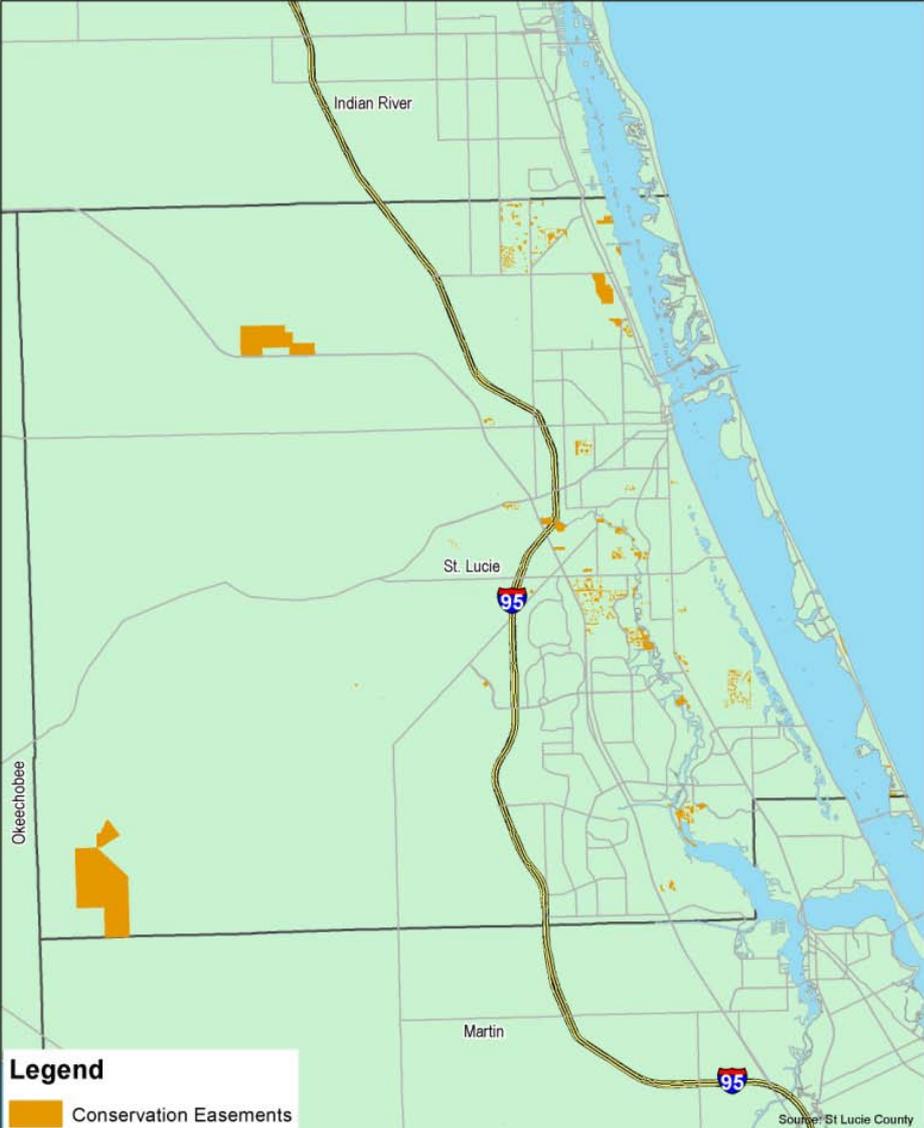
Source: St Johns County

**Conservation Easements  
 St Johns County**



9/15/2014 Cons\_easements\_stjohns.mxd

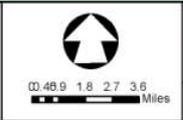




**Legend**

 Conservation Easements

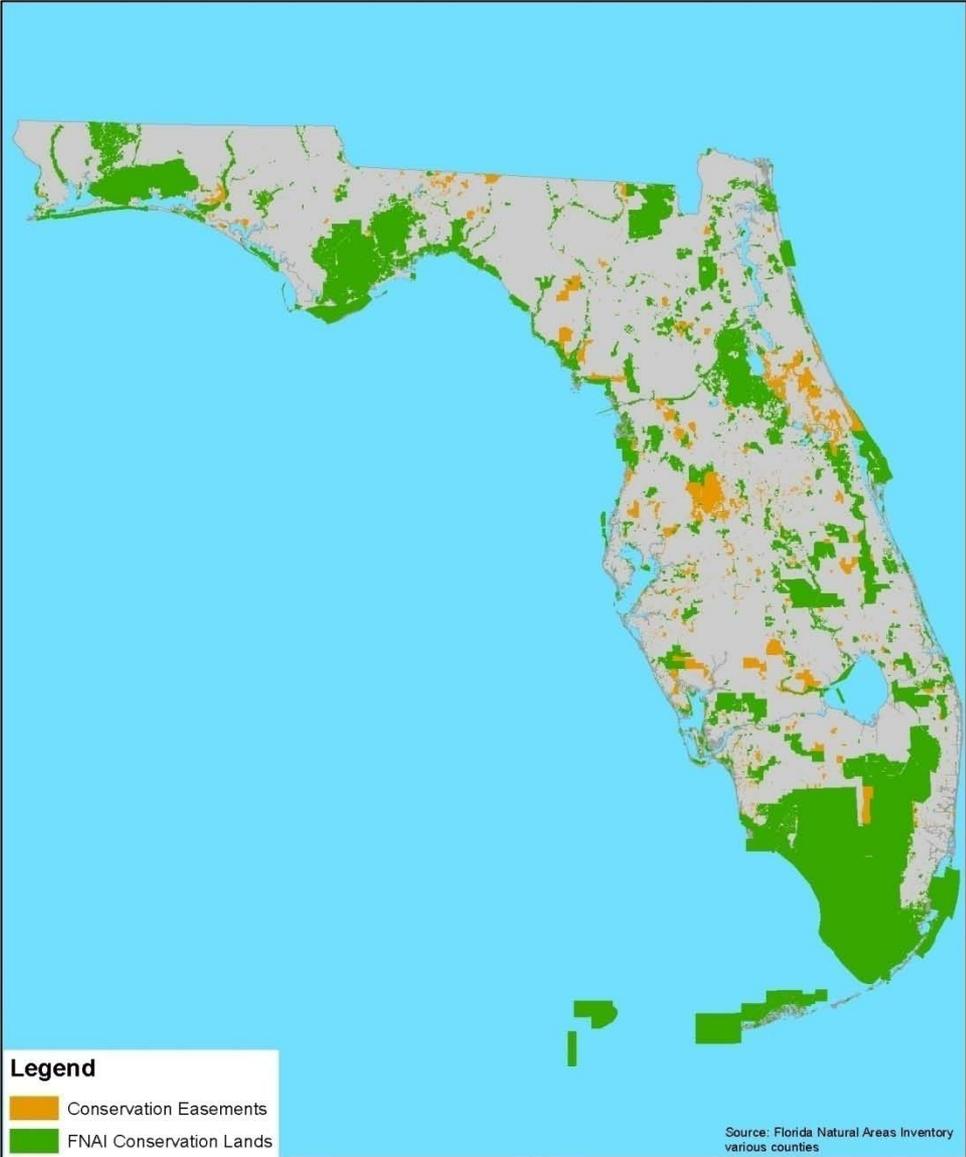
## Conservation Easements Saint Lucie County




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Regional Planning  
Council

1/10/2014 Cons\_easements\_st\_lucie.mxd





**Legend**

- Conservation Easements
- FNAI Conservation Lands

Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory  
various counties

### Conservation Lands and Easements



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Cons\_easements\_FNAICE\_and\_all\_8x11.mxd  
9/29/2014



# What We Are Not Doing

- Temporary Easements
- Rural Land Stewardship Receiving Areas That Continue Active Row Crops, Citrus, Improved Pastures
- Proposed Easements Not Yet Acquired/ Granted/ Recorded
- Current Conditions of the Easements (Are they being properly managed and enforced?)

# The final deliverables will be:

- The map products
- Metadata
- A GIS query tool that would assist a state employee to use the database to find and identify conservation easements through the different attributes of the properties such that one could find the easements by type, location, types of habitat, identity of easement holders, year of designation, etc.

# Questions?



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Tim Walker [twalker@swfrpc.org](mailto:twalker@swfrpc.org)

Thanks!

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Council

(239) 338-2550 ext 224