

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Voluntary Habitat Restoration on Private Lands

Background

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program is the Service's most popular and effective programs for voluntary, citizen and community-based fish and wildlife habitat restoration activities. The Partners program serves as a bridge to owners and managers of private lands to develop partnerships for the benefit of the Service's Trust Species. Its approach is simple: Engage willing partners, through non-regulatory incentives, to conserve and protect wildlife values on their property.

The focus of the Partners Program in Florida is on restoration of native habitats (i.e., longleaf pine, sandhill scrub), restoration of degraded streams and wetlands, and eradication of invasive and exotic species.

The Partners Program also provides technical assistance to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and to landowners participating in conservation programs administered by USDA under the Farm Bill (e.g., Wetlands Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and Conservation Reserve Program).

Accomplishments

The Partners Program has been active in Florida since 1996. Since that time partnerships between private landowners and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have achieved the following results:

- ❖ 4,384 acres of projects to improve sandhill scrub habitat for the Florida scrub-jay.

- ❖ 11,090 acres of longleaf pine restored/enhanced.
- ❖ 50 acres of Pine Rockland restored
- ❖ 2,084 acres in other upland habitat projects.
- ❖ 7,755 acres in wetland restoration projects.
- ❖ 6.5-mile (954-acre) shoreline restoration project at Lake George located on the St. Johns River.
- ❖ 58.9 miles of riparian buffer and stream bank restoration projects.
- ❖ 56.5 acres in aquatic restoration projects.
- ❖ Treatment of 4,266 acres of invasive/exotic species in conjunction with wetland and upland restoration projects.

Priorities

- Sandhill scrub restoration
- Longleaf pine restoration
- Pine Rockland restoration
- Invasive species control
- Wetland restoration
- In-stream restoration
- Riparian fencing
- Threatened and endangered species habitat improvement



Top - Longleaf pine (L), invasive Climbing fern (R), Bottom- xeric scrub (L), stream restoration (R)

For More Information

For more information about the Partners Program in Florida, you may contact the following:

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