


**APPLICATION FOR  
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

<b>1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION:</b> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		<b>2. DATE SUBMITTED</b>	Applicant Identifier
<b>Pre-application</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		<b>3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE</b>	State Application Identifier
		<b>4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY</b>	Federal Identifier
<b>5. APPLICANT INFORMATION</b>			
Legal Name: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission		<b>Organizational Unit:</b> Department: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	
Organizational DUNS: 838-103893		Division: Habitat and Species Conservation	
<b>Address:</b> Street: 620 S. Meridian Street		<b>Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code)</b> Prefix: Mr. First Name: Thomas	
City: Tallahassee		Middle Name: E	
County: Leon		Last Name: Ostertag	
State: Florida	Zip Code: 32399-1600	Suffix:	
Country: USA		Email: Tom.Ostertag@myfwc.com	
<b>6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN):</b> 59-3105845		Phone Number (give area code) (850) 921-1033	Fax Number (give area code) (850) 921-1847
<b>8. TYPE OF APPLICATION:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es) (See back of form for description of letters.) Other (specify)		<b>7. TYPE OF APPLICANT:</b> (See back of form for Application Types) A. State Other (specify)	
<b>10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER:</b> 15-615 TITLE (Name of Program): Coop. Endangeres Species Fund		<b>9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY:</b> U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service	
<b>12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):</b> Collier County, Florida		<b>11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT:</b> Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Plan, Collier County, Florida	
<b>13. PROPOSED PROJECT</b> Start Date: 01/01/2013 Ending Date: 12/31/2013		<b>14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:</b> a. Applicant ALL b. Project 14	
<b>15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:</b>		<b>16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?</b>	
a. Federal	\$ 218,259.00	a. Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON DATE:	
b. Applicant	\$	b. No. <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E. O. 12372	
c. State	\$ 73,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW	
d. Local	\$	<b>17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?</b>	
e. Other	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes" attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
f. Program Income	\$		
g. TOTAL	\$ 291,259.00		
<b>18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.</b>			
<b>a. Authorized Representative</b>			
Prefix Mr	First Name Eric	Middle Name	
Last Name Sutton	Suffix		
b. Title Director, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation		c. Telephone Number (give area code) (850) 617-3831	
d. Signature of Authorized Representative 		e. Date Signed 27 Jan 12	

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0043), Washington, DC 20503.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.**

This is a standard form used by applicants as a required face sheet for pre-applications and applications submitted for Federal assistance. It will be used by Federal agencies to obtain applicant certification that States which have established a review and comment procedure in response to Executive Order 12372 and have selected the program to be included in their process, have been given an opportunity to review the applicant's submission.

Item:	Entry:	Item:	Entry:
1.	Select Type of Submission.	11.	Enter a brief descriptive title of the project. If more than one program is involved, you should append an explanation on a separate sheet. If appropriate (e.g., construction or real property projects), attach a map showing project location. For preapplications, use a separate sheet to provide a summary description of this project.
2.	Date application submitted to Federal agency (or State if applicable) and applicant's control number (if applicable).	12.	List only the largest political entities affected (e.g., State, counties, cities).
3.	State use only (if applicable).	13.	Enter the proposed start date and end date of the project.
4.	Enter Date Received by Federal Agency Federal identifier number: If this application is a continuation or revision to an existing award, enter the present Federal Identifier number. If for a new project, leave blank.	14.	List the applicant's Congressional District and any District(s) affected by the program or project
5.	Enter legal name of applicant, name of primary organizational unit (including division, if applicable), which will undertake the assistance activity, enter the organization's DUNS number (received from Dun and Bradstreet), enter the complete address of the applicant (including country), and name, telephone number, e-mail and fax of the person to contact on matters related to this application.	15.	Amount requested or to be contributed during the first funding/budget period by each contributor. Value of in kind contributions should be included on appropriate lines as applicable. If the action will result in a dollar change to an existing award, indicate only the amount of the change. For decreases, enclose the amounts in parentheses. If both basic and supplemental amounts are included, show breakdown on an attached sheet. For multiple program funding, use totals and show breakdown using same categories as item 15.
6.	Enter Employer Identification Number (EIN) as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service.	16.	Applicants should contact the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Federal Executive Order 12372 to determine whether the application is subject to the State intergovernmental review process.
7.	Select the appropriate letter in the space provided. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> A. State B. County C. Municipal D. Township E. Interstate F. Intermunicipal G. Special District H. Independent School District </div> <div> I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning J. Private University K. Indian Tribe L. Individual M. Profit Organization N. Other (Specify) O. Not for Profit Organization </div> </div>	17.	This question applies to the applicant organization, not the person who signs as the authorized representative. Categories of debt include delinquent audit disallowances, loans and taxes.
8.	Select the type from the following list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"New" means a new assistance award.</li> <li>"Continuation" means an extension for an additional funding/budget period for a project with a projected completion date.</li> <li>"Revision" means any change in the Federal Government's financial obligation or contingent liability from an existing obligation. If a revision enter the appropriate letter:  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> A. Increase Award    B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration    D. Decrease Duration </div> </li> </ul>	18.	To be signed by the authorized representative of the applicant. A copy of the governing body's authorization for you to sign this application as official representative must be on file in the applicant's office. (Certain Federal agencies may require that this authorization be submitted as part of the application.)
9.	Name of Federal agency from which assistance is being requested with this application.		
10.	Use the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number and title of the program under which assistance is requested.		

# **Application for Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grant**

---

**“Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Plan”**

**Collier County, Florida**

Funding Opportunity Number: CESCOF-2012

CFDA Number: 15.615 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Submitted January 26, 2012

## PROJECT STATEMENT

Need: The last remaining population of Florida panther can be found in southwest Florida with the core population being mostly in Collier and Hendry Counties. Loss of panther habitat to land conversion to agriculture and development, along with habitat fragmentation, has reduced the acreage of native habitat appropriate to support the panther.

On a local and state level, a unique land use program, known as the Rural Land Stewardship Area Overlay Program (RLSA), has been established for a 196,000+/-acre area in eastern Collier County, where a significant number of panther home ranges exist. This program encourages conservation of higher quality habitats in exchange for development rights on more ecologically impacted lands. The evaluation of habitats is performed in a landscape context with a high degree of emphasis on panther and other listed species habitat needs. The RLSA has successfully demonstrated an ability to provide high quality compensation for panther and other listed species; however, no federal process currently exists or is in place for a parallel federal review of projects subject to the RLSP. The development and implementation of a multi-species HCP through the federal Endangered Species act will provide the federal parallel to the state/local RLS program and will achieve the primary goals of the Cooperative Agreement between the State of Florida and the Department of the Interior under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act.

Objective: The proposed Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (herein MSHCP) application proposes the establishment of a regional Habitat Conservation Plan for the species identified in Table 1 for an approximately 177,000-acre area identified on the attached exhibit.



**Table 1: Covered species for the Eastern Collier MSHCP.**

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	FEDERAL STATUS <sup>1</sup>
<b>BIRDS</b>		
Florida scrub jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	T
Northern crested caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	T
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	E
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E
Everglade snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>	E
<b>REPTILES</b>		
American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	T(S/A)
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	T
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	C
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
Florida bonneted bat	<i>Eumops floridanus</i>	C
Florida panther	<i>Puma concolor coryi</i>	E

<sup>1</sup> Federal status abbreviations: T -Threatened; T(S/A) – Threatened (Similarity of Appearance); E – Endangered; C- Candidate species for federal listing; SR – currently under status review for listing

Initial steps toward the establishment of the HCP have been initiated by a group of landowners collectively identified as Eastern Collier Property Owners. LLC (ECPO) through discussions with FWS and various environmental stakeholder groups. A listing of key events and initiatives relative to the process are as follows:

- In 2002, Collier County and the state of Florida approved the Rural Land Stewardship Area (RLSA) Overlay Program, an incentive-based program designed to preserve wildlife habitat while directing future compact development to tracts of previously cleared lands exhibiting lower environmental value.

- In 2007, Defenders of Wildlife filed a notice of intent to sue against Ave Maria, the first planned development project under the RLSA program.
- In response to the 2007 filing, members of ECPO worked with multiple environmental NGOs to create a vehicle for achieving panther protection, balancing panther habitat conservation, agriculture, and planned development. ECPO and four environmental NGOs jointly signed a MOU in June 2008 to establish and advance the Florida Panther Protection Program (FPPP).
- A Scientific Review team (SRT), consisting of six experts in panther ecology, reviewed the FPPP relative to panther conservation goals. In a report issued in October 2009, the SRT concluded that the FPPP represented an advance in panther conservation, and offered additional recommendations to enhance the program.
- A major component of the FPPP is the Eastern Collier County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), developed in accordance with Section 10 of the ESA. The MSHCP covers the Florida panther and nine other federally listed or candidate species. A summary of the MSHCP elements was filed with USFWS in June 2010, along with an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) application.
- Developments of the initial portions of the MSHCP document are currently underway, and are anticipated to be submitted to USFWS in the first quarter of 2012. The current and upcoming MSHCP work includes research and writing on the following plan elements: program description and permitted activities; environmental setting; species accounts; proposed action; alternatives to the proposed action; potential impacts; conservation plan for covered species; funding mechanisms; and development of terms for the Implementing Agreement (IA).
- In a parallel effort alongside the MSHCP, ECPO and their consultant prepared a draft EIS bid package for engaging a third-party consultant to prepare an EIS of the HCP/ITP. The bid package was submitted to USFWS in February 2011 for agency review and comment.
- USFWS provided review comments on the EIS bid package to the authorized agent in July 2011. ECPO and their consultant are currently incorporating the review comments into the EIS bid package, in anticipation of issuing an RFQ for a third-party EIS contractor.

A breakdown of process tasks and timeline for which grant funding assistance is requested is presented below under the Approach section.

*Expected Results:* Establishment of the multiple species HCP will allow implementation of conservation measures for Florida panther and other listed species on a coordinated, landscape-level scale, rather than on a case-by-case basis. The existence of the HCP will

provide increase certainty to planning of future conservation, planning , agricultural, and development activities.

Approach: As indicated above, a group of property owners, collectively identified as ECPO, has initiated steps to work towards establishment of the HCP. These efforts have been and are endorsed by many environmental NGOs and other stakeholders (letters of endorsement attached). Remaining tasks to be completed and for which this grant application requests funding support are:

Grant Funding Year (assumed Sept 2012 –Sept 21013)

- Contractor scoping for the EIS (by ECPO for FWS)
- Initiation of the Formal EIS process (by FWS with ECPO support)
- Finalization and submittal of the MSHCP (by ECPO)
- Support iterative process between EIS and MSHCP document review
- Responses to requests for additional information (by ECPO)

Tasks anticipated beyond Grant Funding year

- Review final MSHCP
- Finalization of details of the Implementing Agreement by FWS/ECPO
- Preparation and noticing of draft and final EIS documents by FWS with ECPO support

T

Location: The location of the area for the proposed HCP is 177,000+/- acres located in the eastern portion of Collier County, Florida as depicted on the attached exhibit.

Estimated Costs: ECPO's efforts and costs for consultants necessary to achieve those portions of the tasks identified for the grant funding year under *Approach*, above, are estimated at \$270,000, not including expenditures to-date. The breakdown of these costs is presented in the table below.

Task Item	Timeframe	Planning Assistance Request \$	Non-federal Match- ECPO \$
Finalize Contractor scoping for the EIS (by ECPO for FWS)	Sept 2012	7,500	4,000
Initiation/Support of the Formal EIS process (by FWS with ECPO support)	Oct. 2012 through Jan 2013	40,000	13,000
Finalization and submittal of the MSHCP (by ECPO)	Sept 2012 through Jan 2013	65,000	24,000
Public Outreach meeting (x3)	Oct 2012, Feb 2013 Aug 2013	7,800	5,000
Support iterative process between EIS and MSHCP document review	Feb 2013 through May 2013	18,000	5,000
Responses to FWS requests for additional information for MSHCP (by ECPO)	Feb 2013 through July 2013	50,000	22,000
FWC Direct and Indirect Costs	Funding year	29,959	
<b>Total</b>		218,259	73,000



Therefore, ECPO commits to \$73,000 funding of the Grant year work described above, provided a grant funding of \$218,259 is awarded.

#### Grant Scoring Criteria Summary:

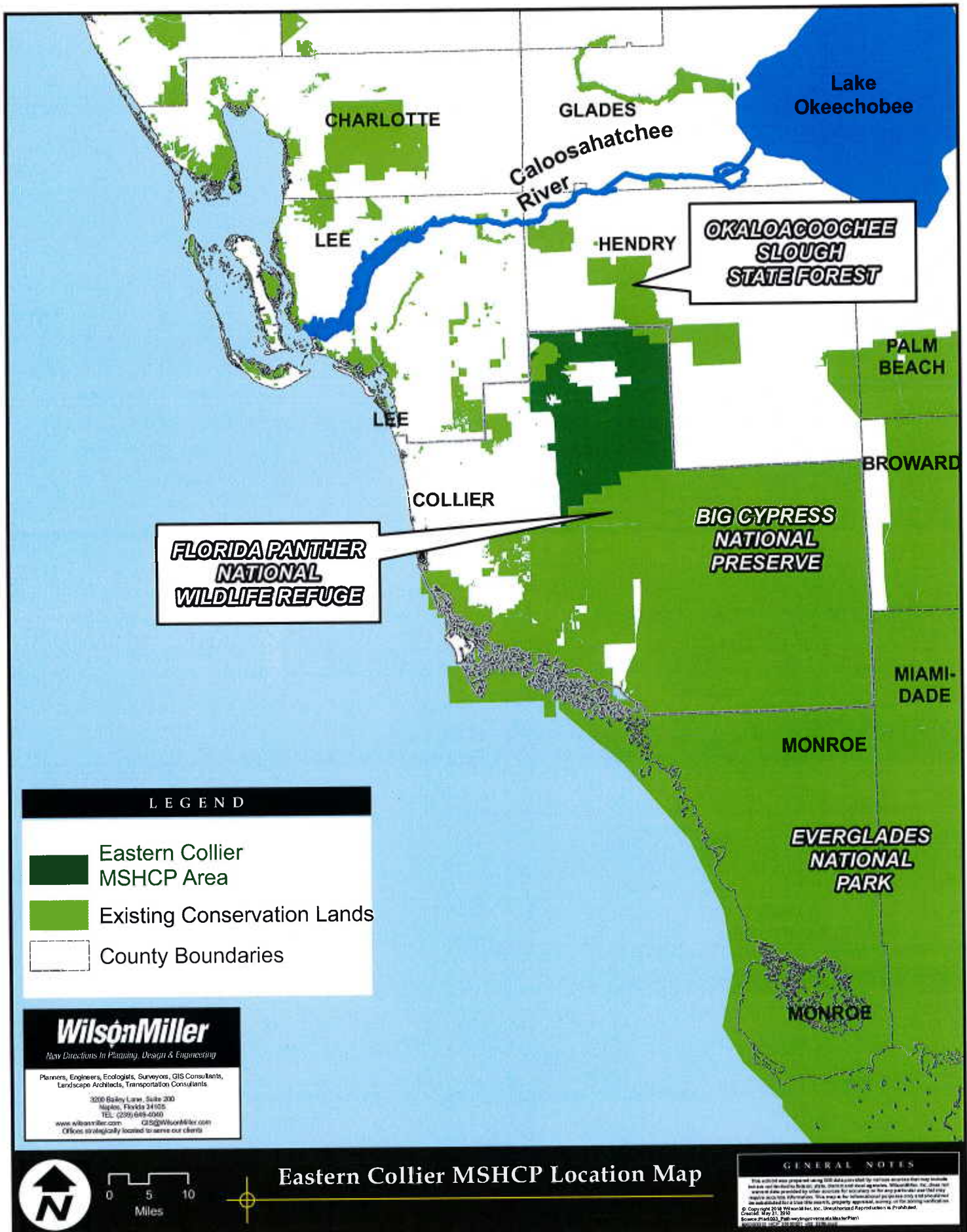
>Species Benefits: This grant request involves a proposed HCP to include 10 covered species, including the Florida panther. As a wide-ranging species, panther protection and recovery requires the planning of conservation and conservation measures on a landscape-scale. By establishing this regional HCP, the proper context for future land planning and land use can be made based on the benefits to the Florida panther and the nine other cover species which are coincidental to many of the habitats needed to support panther. The HCP, in conjunction with the established RLSA program, will further encourage the protection of higher quality habitats for species while directing future impacts to areas deemed less important to the covered species.

>Ecosystem benefits: The existing RLSA program for the subject area was developed with input from multiple stakeholders and focuses on protection of natural resources based on a ecosystem approach. Primary and secondary Flowways are protected under a Flowway Stewardship Area designation while additional areas with connected native vegetative cover are protected under Habitat Stewardship Area and Water Resource Stewardship Area designations. The proposed HCP is intended to synchronize the ecosystem approach used for the RLSA program with federal programs administered under the ESA.

Fostering Partnerships: The history of the RLSA, SRT, and FPPP processes has been a hallmark of open dialogue and partnering between environmental NGOs, other stakeholders and the ECPO property owners. This proposed HCP would represent the successful completion of these ongoing partnerships. Multiple endorsement letters from various stakeholders are attached.

Delivery/Completion: ECPO has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting the HCP process. Significant initial steps in the HCP process have been undertaken solely at ECPOs expense with the expressed purpose of following through the full implementation of the HCP. These past, current and future work efforts demonstrate a clear commitment by ECPO to

further the goals of panther conservation via the MSHCP. These efforts have required a significant dedication of ECPO's financial resources, collaborative energy, and time, and the current work efforts are generally on schedule. As described elsewhere, the collaboration between ECPO and the multiple environmental NGOs can produce a long-term planned future for eastern Collier County under the auspices of the ESA, a future that panther experts have characterized as furthering Florida panther conservation.



Eastern Collier MSHCP Location Map



Aubrey, Craig <craig\_aubrey@fws.gov>

---

## More Questions on East Collier

1 message

---

**Dell, David** <david\_dell@fws.gov>

Thu, Jan 24, 2013 at 2:49 PM

To: Craig Aubrey <craig\_aubrey@fws.gov>

Craig: On the 5th page of the Project Statement, the section on Estimated Costs, in next to last paragraph, there's a line that reads:

"The budget assumes a minimum of eight (4) all-day..."

What number should that be? Thanks.

—

David Dell  
Regional HCP Coordinator  
404/679-7313



Aubrey, Craig <craig\_aubrey@fws.gov>

---

## E. Collier Grant Proposal

1 message

---

**Dell, David** <david\_dell@fws.gov>

Thu, Jan 24, 2013 at 10:03 AM

To: Craig Aubrey <craig\_aubrey@fws.gov>

Craig: In looking at last year's evaluation form for this proposal, I see that we claimed then that the grant would help conclude the planning process. Now they are back with another grant proposal. I haven't gone line-by-line comparing FY13 to FY12 yet looking for differences. Could it be that they are looking to supplement the partial funding received last year? I'll note that they were partially funded last year because their proposal ranked last, but there was still money left after awarding other proposals.

—

David Dell  
Regional HCP Coordinator  
404/679-7313





Aubrey, Craig <craig\_aubrey@fws.gov>

---

## RE: Eastern Collier grant proposal

1 message

---

Johnson, Bruce <Bruce.Johnson@stantec.com>  
To: "Aubrey, Craig" <craig\_aubrey@fws.gov>

Mon, Feb 4, 2013 at 4:43 PM

Craig,

The answers to the RO questions are as follows:

1) The complete sentence should read, "The budget assumes a minimum of **eight (8) all-day internal meetings** between the co-permittees and their consultant(s), and a minimum of four (4) half-day meetings with FWS in Vero Beach, Florida."

2) The key differences between last year's proposal (FY2012) and this year's proposal (FY2013) relate mainly to the stage/maturity of the HCP/IT process, and the associated activities covered by each grant. The FY2012 proposal requested \$270,000, of which \$149,949 was awarded. The primary activities under that grant include: production and submittal of the complete MSHCP first draft; collaborative development of the MSHCP plan details, thresholds, and funding mechanisms (embedded in the MSHCP document); and drafting/publication of the NOI for the EIS.

The FY2013 proposal seeks funding to advance the MSHCP into its final stages. Whereas the FY2012 will result in the first draft MSHCP document, the FY2013 proposal will cover the iterative editing process between FWS and the applicant, resulting in production of the second draft and final draft MSHCP documents. The FY2013 proposal also covers the third-party consultant preparation of the first draft DEIS, subsequent editing per FWS review, and submittal of the second draft DEIS. Finally, the FY2013 proposal covers the preparation of the first draft of the Implementing Agreement (IA), subsequent editing per FWS review, and submittal of the second draft IA. [Note: the relative timing of these activities is consistent with the EIS timeline template that FWS shared with us.]

Overall, the FY2012 grant funded the early stage of the MSHCP/ITP process for this 177,000-acre area. The FY2013 proposal essentially brings the MSHCP/ITP process to its final stages, to a point where the MSHCP document is finalized, the DEIS is nearly finalized, and the Implementing Agreement is nearly finalized.

3) The attached proposal incorporates the correction per item #1 above, and was saved on January 16, 2013 (immediately after I caught the typo).

If you have any questions, please contact me via email or on my mobile (386-527-8333).

Thanks,

**Bruce Johnson, Ph.D.**

Senior Ecologist

Stantec

101 N. Woodland Blvd., Suite 303

DeLand, FL 32720

Ph: (386) 279-0170

Cell: (386) 527-8333

Bruce.Johnson@stantec.com

**stantec.com**

The content of this email is the confidential property of Stantec and should not be copied, modified, retransmitted, or used for any purpose except with Stantec's written authorization. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete all copies and notify us immediately.

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

**From:** Aubrey, Craig [[mailto:craig\\_aubrey@fws.gov](mailto:craig_aubrey@fws.gov)]

**Sent:** Monday, February 04, 2013 2:46 PM

**To:** Johnson, Bruce

**Subject:** Eastern Collier grant proposal

Bruce, I received a couple of Qs from our regional office on the grant proposal Eastern Collier just submitted. Can you please answer the following:

1. On the 5th page of the Project Statement, the section on Estimated Costs, in next to last paragraph, there's a line that reads:

"The budget assumes a minimum of eight (4) all-day...."

What number should that be?

2. What are the differences between this year's and last year's proposals?

3. Can you please provide me a copy of the proposal?

Thanks,

Craig

Craig W. Aubrey

Assistant Field Supervisor - Ecological Services

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

South Florida Ecological Services Office

1339 20th Street

Vero Beach, FL 32960

Phone: (772) 469-4309

Cell: (772) 532-1247

Fax: (772) 562-4288



**FY2013\_application\_habitat\_conservation\_planning\_assistance\_grant\_CORRECTED.pdf**

1414K

# **Application for Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grant**

**“Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Plan”**

**Collier County, Florida**

Funding Opportunity Number: CESC-2013

CFDA Number: 15.615 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Submitted January 11, 2013

## PROJECT STATEMENT

**Need:** The last remaining population of Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryii*) exists in southwest Florida, with the core population occurring in Collier and Hendry Counties. Historical losses of native panther habitat to agriculture and development land conversions, along with habitat fragmentation, have reduced the acreage and functional connectivity of native habitats that provide primary ecological support for the panther.

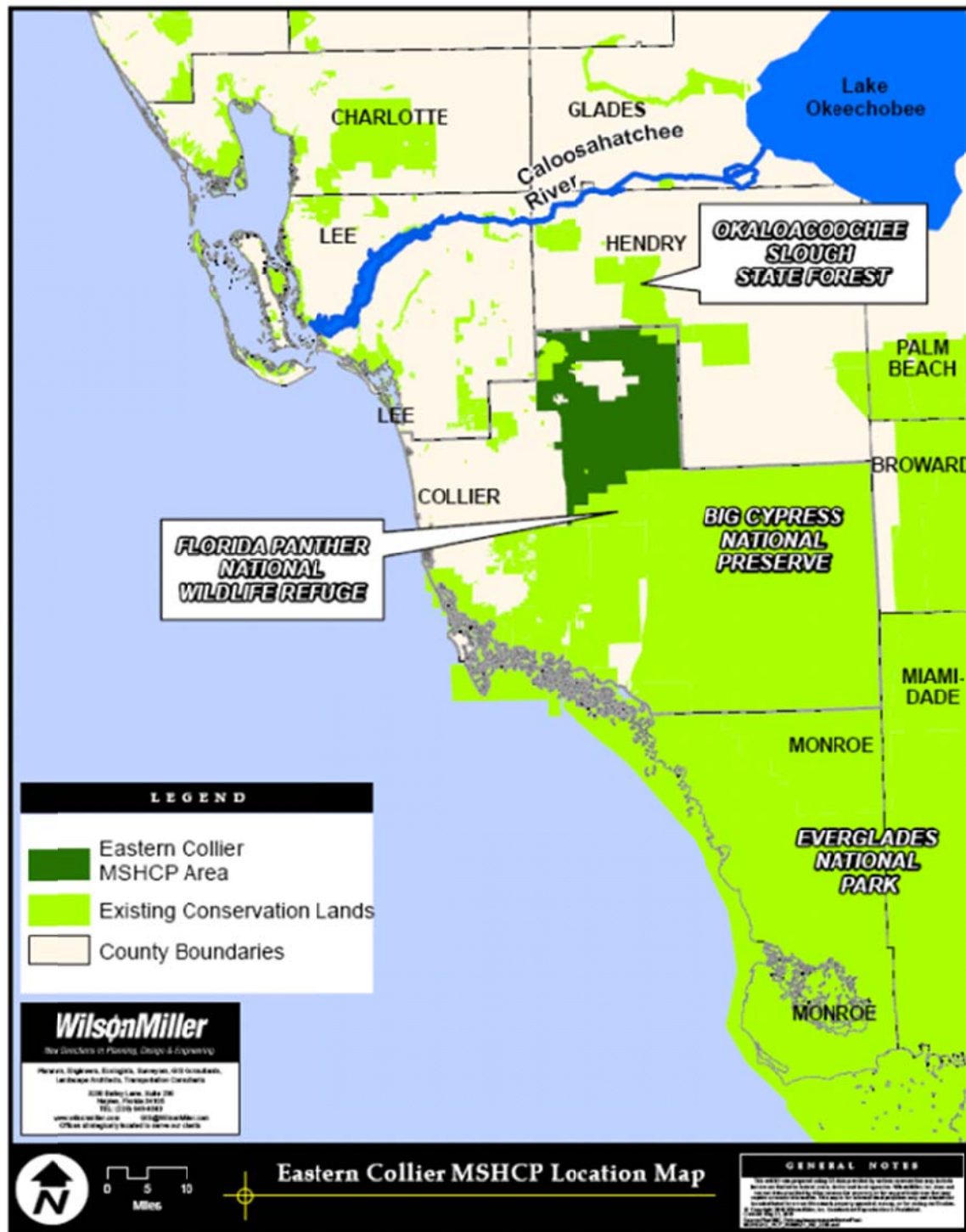
On a local and state level, a unique land use program, known as the Rural Land Stewardship Area Overlay Program (RLSA), has been established for a 196,000+/-acre area in eastern Collier County, where a significant number of panther home ranges exist. This program creates strong incentives for the perpetual conservation of higher quality habitats, in exchange for development rights on more ecologically impacted lands (*i.e.*, previously converted and/or disturbed lands). The habitat evaluations are performed in a landscape-scale context, explicitly recognizing major wildlife corridors, with a high degree of emphasis on habitat protection for panther and other listed species.

The RLSA has successfully demonstrated an ability to provide high-quality habitat protection for panther and other listed species; however, no federal process currently exists or is in place for a comprehensive federal review of projects subject to the RLSA program. The development and implementation of a multi-species HCP through the federal Endangered Species Act will provide the federal parallel to the state/local RLS program, and will achieve the primary goals of the Cooperative Agreement between the State of Florida and the Department of the Interior under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act.

**Objective:** The objective of the Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (herein MSHCP) is to provide a long-range (50 year) conservation and land-use planning framework for approximately 177,000± acres in southwest Florida (Figure 1). The MSHCP establishes a regional Habitat Conservation Plan to cover twelve (12) federally listed, candidate, and non-listed species (Table 1), which will include an associated Implementing Agreement and an Incidental Take Permit (ITP). The MSHCP process is subject to the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Expected Results:** Establishment of the MSHCP will allow the implementation of long-term conservation measures for Florida panther and other federally listed species on a coordinated landscape-level scale, rather than on a case-by-case permitting basis. The MSHCP provides increased certainty for conservation planning, and will ultimately result in a balance of natural areas, agricultural landscapes, and sustainable development within the MSHCP area. The FY2013 grant will advance the MSHCP into the final review and approval stages.





**Figure 1.** Eastern Collier MSHCP location map. The MSHCP area is bounded on the south by two federal preserves (Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and Big Cypress National Preserve), with Everglades National Park to the south and east. The MSHCP area and the Okaloacoochee State Forest provide important linkages for panthers dispersing northward into central Florida.

**Table 1: Covered species for the Eastern Collier MSHCP.**

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	FEDERAL STATUS <sup>1</sup>
<b>BIRDS</b>		
Florida scrub jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	T
Northern crested caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	T
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	E
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E
Everglade snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>	E
<b>REPTILES</b>		
American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	T(S/A)
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	T
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	C
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
Florida bonneted bat	<i>Eumops floridanus</i>	C
Florida panther	<i>Puma concolor coryi</i>	E
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	NL
Feral hog	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	NL

<sup>1</sup> Federal status abbreviations: T -Threatened; T(S/A) – Threatened (Similarity of Appearance); E – Endangered; C- Candidate species for federal listing; NL- Not Listed

**Approach:** A group of eight (8) large property owners, collectively identified as the Eastern Collier Property Owners (ECPO), has initiated major steps to work towards establishment of the MSHCP. ECPO has already invested a significant amount of time, resources, and money to advance the MSHCP process, prior to receiving any federal matching funds. These efforts have been and are endorsed by many environmental NGOs and other stakeholders (see letters of endorsement in Attachment 1).

The Eastern Collier MSHCP was previously awarded a Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grant in FY2012, for \$149,949 (out of a requested amount of \$270,000). Under the FY2012 grant, the deliverables due by September 30, 2013 include:

- A complete initial draft of the MSHCP document
- Details of HCP plan elements/thresholds and funding mechanisms
- Publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) for an EIS in the *Federal Register*

As evidence of progress made to date, ECPO and its consultants have held a series of internal meetings related to the design and implementation of the MSHCP. ECPO's technical consultants have compiled and reviewed a large volume of scientific literature related to the MSHCP, and will begin the draft MSHCP document this month. ECPO worked with FWS to produce a third-party EIS bid package in early 2012, which was sent to qualified consulting firms within Florida. A third-party EIS consultant was selected by FWS in October 2012, and is poised to begin preparations for public scoping and publication of the NOI under the FY2012 grant.

This grant application seeks to build upon these existing activities by initiating and completing the following discrete activities in FY2013 (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014). Time estimates were arrived at in consultation with FWS and through use of an EIS timeline spreadsheet. Due to the number of activities and multiple parties involved with development of the MSHCP, EIS, and Implementing Agreement documents, some activities overlap in time. The schedule assumes the effective date of the grant award document is November 2013.

**DISCRETE ACTIVITY**

**START POINT – END POINT**

Third-party EIS consultant analyzes public comments to be considered in EIS

November 2013 – December 2013

Third-party EIS consultant prepares first administrative draft of DEIS (submitted to FWS in February 2014)

November 2013 – February 2014 (*FWS review from March – May 2014*)

Per FWS comments on initial MSHCP draft, applicant's technical consultant prepares second draft of MSHCP document (second draft submitted March 2014)

January 2014 – March 2014 (*FWS review from April – June 2014*)

Applicant's legal and technical consultants develop first draft of Implementing Agreement (submittal to FWS in March 2014)

January 2014 – March 2014 (*FWS review from April – June 2014*)

Per FWS comments, third-party EIS consultant prepares second administrative draft of DEIS (submittal to FWS in September 2014)

July – September 2014

Applicant's technical consultant prepares final draft of MSHCP document (per FWS review from April – June 2014); submittal of final draft to FWS

July – September 2014

Applicant's legal and technical consultants prepare second

July – September 2014

draft of Implementing Agreement (submittal to FWS in September 2014)

For this FY2013 grant application, the deliverables will be the MSHCP, DEIS and Implementing Agreement documents, which will have undergone at least two full reviews by FWS, and will be ready for review by the FWS Regional Office and Solicitor.

**Location:** The location of the area for the proposed HCP is 177,000+/-acre area located in the eastern portion of Collier County, Florida as depicted on Figure 1.

**Estimated Costs:** ECPO's efforts and total costs for consultants necessary to complete the activities identified for FY2013 under *Approach*, above, are estimated at \$1,207,908, not including expenditures to date. The proposed percentage of cost share provided by non-Federal partners (primarily allowable costs incurred by ECPO) is 50 percent, which would correspond to a grant award of \$615,408 if fully funded. Full funding of the Eastern Collier MSHCP, the second largest private-sector HCP in the southeastern United States, will allow the project to maintain the projected schedule and secure significant conservation measures for the Florida panther and nine other covered species.

The estimated costs for producing the DEIS (\$635,000) are in accordance with past DEIS costs for projects of similar size and complexity. The number is also consistent with the mean estimates from multiple bids received by FWS for the Eastern Collier MSHCP third-party EIS contractor. The multi-party DEIS working meetings and calls anticipate a minimum of 240 hours of conference calls between the third-party EIS consultant, FWS, the applicant, NGOs, and/or the applicant's consultants, along with a minimum of four (4) all-day meetings in Vero Beach or Naples, Florida.

Two revisions to the draft MSHCP document are in accordance with HCP costs for other projects, especially considering the large size of this MSHCP (177,000± acres), the number of covered species (12), and the number of ITP co-permittees (initially 8, with the capacity to add others). The budget assumes a minimum of eight (4) all-day internal meetings between the co-permittees and their consultant(s), and a minimum of four (4) half-day meetings with FWS in Vero Beach, Florida.

Development and finalization of the Implementing Agreement (IA) comprises the most complex and intensive work effort associated with the MSHCP. The drafting and negotiating of the IA involves eight co-permittees (ECPO members), three environmental NGOs, FWS, technical consultants, legal consultants, and other stakeholders within the MSHCP area. The estimated costs reflect the number of parties involved, the number of covered species (12), the size and complexity of the MSHCP, and the logistics of negotiating a long-term (50 year) Implementing

Agreement that is acceptable to all parties. Due to the complexity and uniqueness of this MSHCP, the draft IA will require a large amount of original text that will be drafted by the applicant's legal consultant. The budget assumes 80 hours of conferences calls amongst the parties to the IA negotiations, and four (4) all day meetings in Naples or Vero Beach, Florida.

An overview of the project activities for FY2013 is provided in Table 2. A more detailed breakdown of estimated costs and the applicant match can be found in Table 3.

Given the large total cost of the MSHCP effort, ECPO cannot expend the full amount required to bring the MSHCP into its final review stages. The FY2013, if fully funded as shown in Table 3, will push the Eastern Collier MSHCP into its final stages, securing major conservation actions for the Florida panther and the 11 other covered species.

**Table 2: Estimated costs by Activity**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>
Preparation of DEIS document (includes analysis of public comments, initial draft and two revisions per FWS comments)	\$ 635,000
Revisions to MSHCP document (two technical revisions per FWS comments and feedback from EIS process; legal review)	\$ 180,000
Preparation of Implementing Agreement (includes internal meetings; legal consulting fees; technical consulting fees; meetings with FWS; two revisions per FWS comments and feedback from EIS process)	\$ 370,000
FWC Direct and Indirect Grant-Related Costs	\$ 22,908
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 1,207,908</b>



**Table 3. Cost breakdowns for the Eastern Collier MSHCP in FY2013**

ACTIVITY*	APPLICANT 50% MATCH	FEDERAL HCP GRANT REQUEST	TOTAL
<b>PREPARATION OF DEIS DOCUMENT</b>			
Analysis/incorporation of public comments	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
Preparation of first DEIS draft	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$280,000
Preparation of second DEIS draft	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$140,000
Multi-party DEIS working meetings and calls	\$87,500	\$87,500	\$175,000
<b>DEIS Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$317,500</b>	<b>\$317,500</b>	<b>\$635,000</b>
<b>REVISIONS TO MSHCP DOCUMENT</b>			
MSHCP revisions from first FWS review and EIS process	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$90,000
MSHCP revisions from second FWS review and EIS process	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$45,000
Legal consulting and document review	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
Internal meetings and meetings with FWS	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
<b>MSHCP Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>
<b>PREPARATION OF IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT (IA)</b>			
Meetings/negotiations between co-permittees, NGOs, and FWS	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$110,000
Technical consulting fees for drafting IA text	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
Legal consulting fees for drafting IA text and side agreements	\$62,500	\$62,500	\$150,000
Two revisions of draft IA per FWS comments	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
<b>IA Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>	<b>\$370,000</b>
<b>FWC DIRECT AND INDIRECT GRANT-RELATED COSTS</b>			
Direct costs for FWC staff time	-	\$20,314	\$20,314
Indirect costs for FWC	-	\$2,594	\$2,594
<b>FWC Sub-Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$22,908</b>	<b>\$22,908</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$592,500</b>	<b>\$615,408</b>	<b>\$1,207,908</b>
* Explanations for each Activity are provided in the grant application narrative			

## RANKING CRITERIA SUMMARY

**Species Benefits:** This grant application supports development of a multispecies HCP to include 12 covered species (as listed on the eventual permit; Table 1), including the endangered Florida panther. As a wide-ranging species, panther protection and recovery require the planning of conservation and conservation measures on a landscape scale. By establishing this regional MSHCP, large swaths of habitat and wildlife corridors can be protected to benefit to the Florida panther, and to benefit the 11 other covered species that occupy the landscape matrix needed to support panther. The two non-listed species covered under the permit, white-tailed deer and feral hog, provide the primary prey base for panther.

The MSHCP will protect habitat within a portion of the panther's core population area. In the context of climate change, the Florida Natural Area Inventory (FNAI) has estimated that "The Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) would lose about 15% of current habitat with 1 meter of

sea level rise and up to half with a rise of 3 meters” (FNAI, 2011; Atlas of Florida’s Natural Heritage; [http://www.fnai.org/PDF/Atlas\\_Climate\\_Change.pdf](http://www.fnai.org/PDF/Atlas_Climate_Change.pdf)). The MSHCP area (Figure 1) occurs on a regional topographic high known as the Immokalee Rise, with elevations ranging from 4-15 meters (13-45 feet) above current sea level. This area of relatively high land is therefore important for long-term conservation of the core panther population, whether under current or future climate (sea level rise) scenarios.

**Ecosystem Benefits:** The 177,000± acre MSHCP area (Figure 1) contains a diverse mix of native habitats (upland forests, wetland forests, herbaceous wetlands, and dry prairies) occurring as a landscape matrix with agricultural fields, ranchlands, and compact developments. The MSHCP proposes that approximately 132,000± acres of native habitats and agricultural lands be protected to provide large swaths of interconnected habitats that support the 12 covered species.

The native habitats within the MSHCP area require minimal management and contain all of the natural occurring biotic and abiotic factors necessary for a fully functioning ecosystem. Indeed, it is the vastness, diversity, and quality of the natural ecosystems that have long supported panthers in the first place. The interspersed agricultural fields and ranchlands also provide support for most of the covered species, and actually serve as primary habitat for the northern crested caracara.

**Fostering HCP Partnerships:** ECPO itself is comprised of eight stakeholders who are large property owners. The history of the RLSA and MSHCP processes has been a hallmark of open dialogue and partnering between the ECPO property owners, environmental NGOs, other property owners within the MSHCP area, state and local governments, and business interests. At a minimum, stakeholders include the eight ECPO property owners, three major environmental NGOs (Defenders of Wildlife, Florida Wildlife Federation, and Audubon of Florida), an unknown number of property owners within the MSHCP area, the Gulf Citrus Growers, and the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce (13 stakeholders minimum). The Implementing Agreement will contain provisions for a “Certificate of Participation,” similar to some California HCPs, that will allow other property owners within the MSHCP area to participate after issuance of the Incidental Take Permit. Multiple endorsement letters from various stakeholders are included at the end of this document as Attachment 1.

**Delivery or Completion:** ECPO has demonstrated a strong commitment to pursuing the MSHCP process, and has coordinated closely with FWS. Significant initial steps in the MSHCP process have thus far been undertaken solely at ECPOs expense with the expressed purpose of following through the full implementation of the MSHCP. These past, current and future work

efforts demonstrate a clear commitment by ECPO to further the goals of panther and other listed species conservation via the MSHCP.

The discrete activities listed under the *Approach* section will effectively finalize the MSHCP planning process, as they will result in the delivery of a MSHCP document, a DEIS document, and an Implementing Agreement that are sufficient for review by the FWS Regional Office and Solicitor. The schedule for these discrete activities builds in sufficient review time for FWS, and anticipates delivery of the MSHCP, DEIS, and IA documents well before the end of 2014.

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**(STAKEHOLDER ENDORSEMENT LETTERS)**



Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary  
375 Sanctuary Road  
Naples, FL 34120-4865  
[www.fl.audubon.org](http://www.fl.audubon.org)



1020 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South, Suite 2  
Naples, FL 34102  
239-643-7822  
[www.collieraudubon.org](http://www.collieraudubon.org)

January 26, 2012

Tom Ostertag  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Trish Adams, HCP Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

RE: Eastern Collier County Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan Section 6 Grant

Dear Mr. Ostertag and Ms. Adams:

For more than ten years, Audubon Florida and Collier County Audubon Society have had constructive and collaborative relationships with the major landowners in the 180,000 acres of private agricultural and natural lands surrounding Immokalee in eastern Collier County. Our mutual habitat and wetland conservation interests have led us, along with other conservation groups, to forge the innovative Florida Panther Protection Program ([www.FloridaPantherProtection.com](http://www.FloridaPantherProtection.com)) based on the Rural Land Stewardship Program in the same area. This group of landowners, under the collective organization called the Eastern Collier Property Owners (ECPO), with our participation and input, is pursuing a multi-species regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). In addition, they are currently applying for grant funding under the Endangered Species Act Section 6 to assist in their completion of the HCP.

Collier County Audubon Society and Audubon Florida fully support these important endeavors for their landscape level habitat and imperiled species benefits and urge a positive response to their current HCP Section 6 grant application.

Sincerely,

Southwest Florida Policy Associate  
Collier County Audubon Society and Audubon Florida





11741 Palm Beach Blvd., Ste 202  
Fort Myers, FL 33905  
Phone: 239-690-0281  
Fax: 239-690-0857  
Website: [gulfcitrus.org](http://gulfcitrus.org)

---

January 26, 2012

Mr. Tom Ostertag  
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission  
620 S. Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Trish Adams  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

**Subject: Endorsement of Multi-Species HCP for Eastern Lands of Collier County, Florida**

Dear Mr. Ostertag and Ms. Adams:

It has come to our attention, that the Eastern Collier Property Owners (ECPO), a group of property owners representing the vast majority of lands within approximately 196,000 acres in rural eastern Collier County, has initiated the process to establish a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for that portion of the county. This letter from the Gulf Citrus Growers Association is to support the concept and plan as proposed to establish this important HCP in eastern Collier County. Our organization has been actively engaged in working with interested agencies and organizations on conservation programs aimed at protecting natural resources throughout Southwest Florida, and has provided input regarding the future of the Florida panther and other listed species in our region for over 25 years.

Further, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association understands that ECPO is submitting an application for grant funding under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and fully supports this application along with the goals and purpose of this HCP. We wholeheartedly believe that regional ecological benefits will be realized as a result of this initiative. The Gulf Citrus Growers Association is a trade association representing the citrus growing industry in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties.

Sincerely;

Ron Hamel, executive vice president  
Gulf Citrus Growers Association



**Florida Office**

223 3rd Street North, Suite 201 | St. Petersburg, FL 33701 | tel 727.823.3888 | fax 727.823.3873  
[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)

January 27, 2012

Tom Ostertag, Biological Scientist  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
W.D. Bloxham Building  
725 South Calhoun Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Trish Adams, HCP Coordinator  
U.S Fish and Wildlife Service  
South Florida Ecological Services Field Office  
1339 20th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Re: Endorsement of Application for Section 6 Funding to Support Development of Eastern Collier County Multi-Species HCP, Florida

Mr. Ostertag and Ms. Adams:

We are writing to express our support for ECPO's application for Section 6 grant funding to help develop a Panther/Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Eastern Collier County. Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) is a national, non-profit membership organization dedicated to the protection of native wild animals and plants in their natural communities.

ECPO, a group of property owners representing the vast majority of lands within an area of approximately 196,000 acres in rural eastern Collier County, has begun the process to establish an HCP for eastern Collier County. Defenders strongly supports the concept and plan to establish this important HCP. Further, for the past several years, we have worked with the major landowners and provided substantial input regarding conservation of the Florida panther and the other listed species in southwest Florida.

Defenders fully supports moving forward with establishing the HCP to further conservation of the Florida panther and other covered species.

Sincerely,

Laurie Macdonald  
Florida Director

Elizabeth Fleming  
Florida Representative  
**National Headquarters**  
1130 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036-4604  
tel 202.682.9400 | fax 202.682.1331



# FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

*Affiliated With National Wildlife Federation*

Southwest Florida Office  
2590 Golden Gate Parkway, Suite 105  
Naples, Florida 34105

Office Phone: (239) 643-4111  
Cell: (239) 784-5119  
Email: [nancypayton@fvfonline.org](mailto:nancypayton@fvfonline.org)

January 26, 2012

Trish Adams  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Vero Beach, Florida

Tom Ostertag  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Tallahassee, Florida

RE: Endorsement of Eastern Collier Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan  
Collier County, Florida

Dear Ms. Adams and Mr. Ostertag:

Florida Wildlife Federation supports the Eastern Collier Property Owners' application for grant funding under Section 6 of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The grant will assist in the development of a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for approximately 196,000 acres in eastern Collier County.

The Federation's Southwest Florida Office is dedicated to the protection and recovery of the endangered Florida panther and other listed species native to the Western Everglades. For years the Federation has been working with the Eastern Collier Property Owners, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and conservation colleagues to implement a preservation strategy for rural eastern Collier County.

The Eastern Collier Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan can be that comprehensive program and can serve as the nucleus of a wider vision for a regional network of protected wildlife habitat across the Western Everglades.

The Federation looks forward to working with the wildlife agencies, property owners, and interested parties as the Habitat Conservation Plan moves forward.

Sincerely,

*Nancy A. Payton*

Nancy A. Payton  
Southwest Florida Field Representative

cc: Manley Fuller, Florida Wildlife Federation



January 26, 2012

Trish Adams  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Vero Beach, Florida

Tom Ostertag  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Tallahassee, Florida

Subject: Endorsement of Eastern Collier Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan  
Collier County, Florida

Dear Ms. Adams and Mr. Ostertag:

On behalf of requests from Brad Cornell, Collier County Audubon Society, and Nancy Payton, Florida Wildlife Federation, the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce submits this letter in support of the Eastern Collier Habitat Conservation Plan for the Florida panther and other endangered wildlife.

The goal of this Habitat Conservation Plan is to protect a significant, contiguous range of Florida panther habitat while balancing the property rights of landowners.

The Eastern Collier Habitat Conservation Plan will be a boon not only to endangered species, but will also aid the economic advancement of eastern Collier County because the wildlife permitting obligations will be fulfilled prior to development. When a company is deciding where to locate, the approved Habitat Conservation Plan could be the card that tips the scale in favor of Collier County over another region.

The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce endorses the Eastern Collier Property Owners' application for grant funding under Section 6 of the U.S. Endangered Species Act to develop a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Reagen'.

Michael V. Reagen, Ph.D.  
President & CEO  
The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce <sup>tm</sup>  
& Leadership Collier Foundation <sup>tm</sup>



Cassler, Constance <constance\_cassler@fws.gov>

## Re: News Release: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Boosts State Endangered Species Conservation Efforts with \$32 Million in Grants

1 message

Frakes, Robert <robert\_frakes@fws.gov>

Thu, Jul 18, 2013 at 11:11 AM

To: "Aubrey, Craig" <craig\_aubrey@fws.gov>

Cc: Constance Cassler <Constance\_Cassler@fws.gov>, Brian Powell <Brian\_Powell@fws.gov>, Larry Williams <larry\_williams@fws.gov>, Dana Hartley <dana\_hartley@fws.gov>, Victoria Foster <victoria\_foster@fws.gov>

Thanks Craig,

[REDACTED]

Bob

Robert A. Frakes, Ph.D.  
Supervisory Ecologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1339 20th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
772-469-4242

On Thu, Jul 18, 2013 at 10:21 AM, Aubrey, Craig <craig\_aubrey@fws.gov> wrote:

Pls see the awards. Good dollars for easern collier, polk, and beaches

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Warren, Ken" <ken\_warren@fws.gov>

Date: Jul 17, 2013 2:39 PM

Subject: News Release: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Boosts State Endangered Species Conservation Efforts with \$32 Million in Grants

To: "Larry Williams" <larry\_williams@fws.gov>, "Craig Aubrey" <craig\_aubrey@fws.gov>, "Donald Progulske" <bob\_progulske@fws.gov>

Cc:

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Boosts State Endangered Species Conservation Efforts with \$32 Million in Grants

*Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas, and North Carolina receive grants*

**July 9, 2013**

#### **Contact:**

Gavin Shire, (703) 358-2649, [gavin\\_shire@fws.gov](mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced nearly \$32 million in grants to 20 states to help advance their collaborative efforts to conserve America's rarest

species. The cooperative grants will provide vital support to efforts by partnering state wildlife agencies and conservation organizations to improve the health of the land and water that supports these species and scores of communities across the nation.

Issued through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (authorized by Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act), these competitive grants enable states to work with private landowners, conservation groups and other government agencies to initiate conservation planning efforts and acquire and protect habitat that benefits threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants.

"Our nation's most effective conservation efforts are partnerships in which federal, state and local governments work hand-in-hand with private landowners and other stakeholders," said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. "The cooperative grants announced today will make it possible to build these voluntary partnerships to conserve the vital habitat of diverse threatened and endangered species. In addition, many of these partnerships provide direct benefits to people, such as improving water quality and supporting jobs and economic growth."

"Private landowners play a vital role in conserving our most imperiled species, but they need our help," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. "These grants provide a lifeline to species on the brink by fostering partnerships between federal, state and local governments, private organizations, and individuals, empowering them to develop creative solutions that drive critical conservation and recovery efforts."

The grant funding is provided through programs established to help advance creative partnerships for the recovery of imperiled species. This year, the fund will allocate approximately \$8 million in grants through the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants Program; \$14.2 million through the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants Program, and \$9.4 million through the Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program.

"State wildlife agencies often provide a last line of defense in efforts to conserve species under the federal endangered species act," said Jeff Vonk, President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Department Secretary of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. "These grants will help state fish and wildlife agencies fund critical science-based conservation to ensure the vitality of our nation's fish and wildlife resources and help keep threatened species from the brink of extinction."

A complete list of the 2013 grant awards under these programs (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 15.615) is available online at: [www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html).

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) are agreements between a landowner and the Service that allow a landowner to undertake otherwise lawful activities on their property, even if they may impact listed species. In return, the landowner agrees to conservation measures designed to minimize and mitigate the impact of those actions. HCPs may also be developed by a county or state to cover certain activities of all landowners within their jurisdiction and may address multiple species.

Under the HCP Land Acquisition Grants Program, the Service provides grants to states or territories for land acquisitions that complement the conservation objectives of approved HCPs.

For example, the State of Washington, will receive \$2 million to acquire 2,400 acres in Asotin County, including one mile of the Lower Grande Ronde River and three miles of tributaries that support federally listed bull trout as well as steelhead, interior redband trout, Pacific lamprey and many other aquatic species. This acquisition is part of a larger, multi-phased landscape-level project that will eventually protect 13,000 acres of habitat lands and 15 miles of streams. The project is bordered on the north by Forest Service lands and on the south and east by Bureau of Land Management lands. This is a rare opportunity to purchase a large, ecologically intact and diverse landscape that also will protect uplands and other habitats that support species such as elk, bighorn sheep, deer, and golden eagles.

The HCP Planning Assistance Grants Program provides grants to states and territories to support the development of HCPs through funding of baseline surveys and inventories, document preparation, outreach and similar planning activities.

For example, the State of California will use a grant of \$410,818 to support the development of an HCP for the

Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta Region. The delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast and supports 750 plant and animal species, 126 of which are sensitive or listed as threatened or endangered. The delta is also critical to California's economy, as it serves as the "hub" of the State's water infrastructure, supplying drinking water for two-thirds of Californians and irrigation water for over 7 million acres of highly productive agricultural lands. The Bay Delta HCP is being developed as a long-term comprehensive plan that will conserve and manage key species and natural communities in perpetuity while providing reliable water supplies for the State's myriad uses.

The Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program provides funds to states and territories to acquire habitat for endangered and threatened species with approved recovery plans. Habitat acquisition to secure long term protection is often an essential element of a comprehensive recovery effort for a listed species.

One of this year's grants will provide \$190,301 to enable the State of Nebraska to acquire and restore 184 acres of habitat for the reintroduction of the endangered Salt Creek tiger beetle. Protecting additional habitat is critical for avoiding extinction of this highly-imperiled species, which numbers only a few hundred individuals. This effort will also protect and restore eastern saline wetlands, which are the most limited and endangered wetland type and vegetation community in all of Nebraska.

The Endangered Species Act provides a critical safety net for America's native fish, wildlife, and plants. The Service is working to actively engage conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species. To learn more about the Endangered Species Program, visit <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>.

## List of Grants in the Southeast Region

### ***Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants by State:***

#### **Florida**

**Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches (35 Coastal Counties-Statewide) \$735,098.** This grant will assist stakeholders develop a plan to assimilate acquired data into a detailed draft of the HCP. Activities in the coastal area and their threats to listed species will be also be analyzed. The goal of the HCP is to allow for ongoing beach structure protection measures while limiting and mitigating the adverse effects to nesting loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, leatherback, green, and hawksbill sea turtles, five beach mouse subspecies, and shorebirds, including wintering piping plover. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is leading this effort in conjunction with builders groups, municipalities, and others.

**Polk County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Polk County) \$277,029.** This grant will assist in initiating planning for a county-wide HCP for scrub habitats benefitting the Florida scrub-jay, eastern indigo snake, sand skink, blue-tailed mole skink, and other dry scrub species. Implementation of an HCP in Polk County marks a significant step forward for scrub conservation in the heart of Florida's central ridge that can be linked to similar efforts in neighboring counties.

**East Collier County Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Collier County) \$615,408.** This grant will assist planning for the first area-wide HCP to cover the endangered Florida panther. Expected results include production of a draft HCP and environmental impact statement. Implementation of this HCP will provide the first such conservation plan in the panther's primary recovery zone. The plan represents a collaborative effort among many private stakeholders with ranching, development, and conservation interests.

#### **Georgia**

**Lower Flint River Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (15 Southwest Georgia Counties) \$263,458.** This grant will assist in the second year of planning for a basin-wide HCP for aquatic habitats used by federally-listed mussels such as the shinyrayed pocketbook, oval pigtoe, Gulf moccasinshell, purple bankclimber, and fat threeridge. Other aquatic species to benefit include fifteen fish, mussel, reptile, and amphibian species of state management concern. Increasing demands for water resources in this vital agricultural area combined with recent droughts have made clear the need for proactive conservation planning in this region.

#### **Tennessee**



**Development of a Habitat Conservation Plan by City of Crossville and Cumberland County, Tennessee**

**(Cumberland County) \$645,366.** This grant will assist in the ongoing development of the Cumberland region-wide HCP to protect aquatic resources. Several mammals, mussels, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and aquatic invertebrates will benefit from this effort to develop protective measures in an ecologically-diverse region that is beginning to experience increased development and resource extraction issues. The HCP will provide management prescriptions and regulatory guidelines to minimize and mitigate development effects on the target species and habitats. With the plan in operation, regulatory processes for the covered municipalities will be streamlined. Listed species include the Indiana bat, gray bat, spotfin chub (a fish species), purple bean (a freshwater mussel), and Cumberland rosemary and Virginia spiraea (plant species).

**Recovery Land Acquisition Grants by State:****Arkansas****Building a Conservation Corridor for the Recovery of Federally-Listed Species, Saline River (Ashley County)**

**\$1,342,687.** This grant will enable the acquisition of 1,611 acres of important riparian and upland habitat adjacent to the Saline River to directly benefit two federally-listed endangered freshwater mussels, the winged mapleleaf and pink mucket. This acquisition will also benefit the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and serve to protect the rabbitsfoot, a mussel recently proposed for listing as threatened. This acquisition will help further achievement of the recovery criteria for these species by protecting known population locations and will increase protection of the most important section of the Saline River for mussels west of the Mississippi River.

**Florida****Listed Species Recovery on the Lake Wales Ridge Conservation Easement for the Robinson Property (Highlands County) \$854,364.**

This grant will enable the acquisition of a conservation easement on 565 acres on the Lake Wales Ridge to protect scrub habitat important for the federally threatened Florida scrub jay and sand skink as well as the gopher tortoise, a Federal candidate species. The conservation easement will help achieve recovery criteria for the Florida scrub jay and sand skink, expand an existing conservation area, and provide connectivity among existing managed lands.

**Georgia****Acquisition of the Ironstob-Braswell Mountain Tract within the Raccoon Creek Basin, a Tributary to the Etowah River (Paulding County) \$1,000,000.**

This grant will enable the acquisition of 1,000 acres along Raccoon Creek in the Etowah basin to benefit two federally-listed fish, the endangered Etowah darter and the threatened Cherokee darter. Raccoon Creek has been identified as essential habitat for the long-term survival of these fish and the acquisition of this tract will help meet recovery objectives for these species. Permanent protection of this tract will also provide important connectivity to other protected areas and benefit a number of other rare aquatic and terrestrial species in the watershed.

**North Carolina****Conservation of Habitat for the Spotfin Chub, Littlewing Pearlymussel, and Appalachian Elktoe (Macon County) \$142,500.**

This project will acquire 39 acres with approximately 2,600 feet of frontage on the Little Tennessee River in western North Carolina to benefit three federally-listed aquatic species: the threatened spotfin chub, the endangered littlewing pearlymussel, and the endangered Appalachian elktoe. Acquisition of this land will help achieve the highest priority recovery goals for these species by protecting important habitat and reducing the threat of increased sedimentation.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov/southeast](http://www.fws.gov/southeast). Connect with us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast](http://www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast](http://www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws>, and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwss>

--

Ken Warren  
Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
South Florida Ecological Services Office  
1339 20th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559  
Office Phone: 772.469.4323  
Mobile Phone: 772.643.4407  
Fax: 772.778.5498

"All good things are wild and free." ~ Henry David Thoreau



Cassler, Constance &lt;constance\_cassler@fws.gov&gt;

---

## East Collier HCP-PA Proposals

1 message

---

**Dell, David** <david\_dell@fws.gov>

Mon, Sep 9, 2013 at 2:31 PM

To: Constance Cassler &lt;Constance\_Cassler@fws.gov&gt;

Connie: As we discussed, here are the FY12 and FY13 proposals. Also included are the national award memos that list the amount of the award. In FY12, the county received only a partial award (even though their proposal ranked last nationally, they still got the leftover money).

—

David Dell  
Regional HCP Coordinator  
404/679-7313

---

### 4 attachments



**FY2013\_application\_habitat\_conservation\_planning\_assistance\_grant\_CORRECTED.pdf**  
1405K



**054794 2013 Recovery Land Acq and HCP Plann Assitist ad Acq.doc**  
280K



**HCP-Eastern Collier Multiple Species Collier, County FL.pdf**  
811K



**DCN 052145 FY12 Recovery Land Acquisition, Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance, and Land Acquisition Grants.pdf**  
2576K

# **Application for Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grant**

**“Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Plan”**

**Collier County, Florida**

Funding Opportunity Number: CESC-2013

CFDA Number: 15.615 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Submitted January 11, 2013

## PROJECT STATEMENT

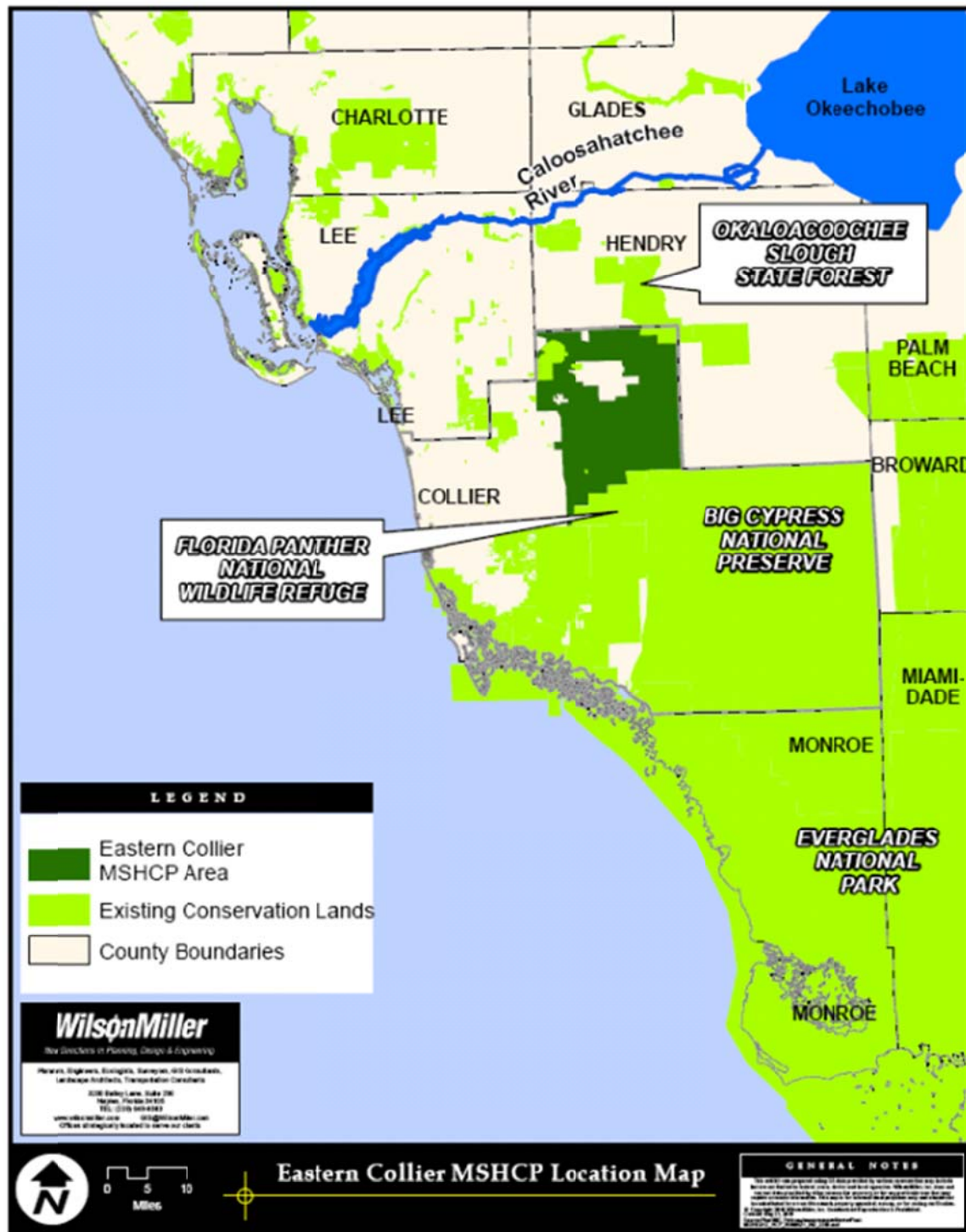
**Need:** The last remaining population of Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryii*) exists in southwest Florida, with the core population occurring in Collier and Hendry Counties. Historical losses of native panther habitat to agriculture and development land conversions, along with habitat fragmentation, have reduced the acreage and functional connectivity of native habitats that provide primary ecological support for the panther.

On a local and state level, a unique land use program, known as the Rural Land Stewardship Area Overlay Program (RLSA), has been established for a 196,000+/-acre area in eastern Collier County, where a significant number of panther home ranges exist. This program creates strong incentives for the perpetual conservation of higher quality habitats, in exchange for development rights on more ecologically impacted lands (*i.e.*, previously converted and/or disturbed lands). The habitat evaluations are performed in a landscape-scale context, explicitly recognizing major wildlife corridors, with a high degree of emphasis on habitat protection for panther and other listed species.

The RLSA has successfully demonstrated an ability to provide high-quality habitat protection for panther and other listed species; however, no federal process currently exists or is in place for a comprehensive federal review of projects subject to the RLSA program. The development and implementation of a multi-species HCP through the federal Endangered Species Act will provide the federal parallel to the state/local RLS program, and will achieve the primary goals of the Cooperative Agreement between the State of Florida and the Department of the Interior under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act.

**Objective:** The objective of the Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (herein MSHCP) is to provide a long-range (50 year) conservation and land-use planning framework for approximately 177,000± acres in southwest Florida (Figure 1). The MSHCP establishes a regional Habitat Conservation Plan to cover twelve (12) federally listed, candidate, and non-listed species (Table 1), which will include an associated Implementing Agreement and an Incidental Take Permit (ITP). The MSHCP process is subject to the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Expected Results:** Establishment of the MSHCP will allow the implementation of long-term conservation measures for Florida panther and other federally listed species on a coordinated landscape-level scale, rather than on a case-by-case permitting basis. The MSHCP provides increased certainty for conservation planning, and will ultimately result in a balance of natural areas, agricultural landscapes, and sustainable development within the MSHCP area. The FY2013 grant will advance the MSHCP into the final review and approval stages.



**Figure 1.** Eastern Collier MSHCP location map. The MSHCP area is bounded on the south by two federal preserves (Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and Big Cypress National Preserve), with Everglades National Park to the south and east. The MSHCP area and the Okaloacoochee State Forest provide important linkages for panthers dispersing northward into central Florida.

**Table 1: Covered species for the Eastern Collier MSHCP.**

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	FEDERAL STATUS <sup>1</sup>
<b>BIRDS</b>		
Florida scrub jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	T
Northern crested caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	T
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	E
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E
Everglade snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>	E
<b>REPTILES</b>		
American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	T(S/A)
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	T
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	C
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
Florida bonneted bat	<i>Eumops floridanus</i>	C
Florida panther	<i>Puma concolor coryi</i>	E
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	NL
Feral hog	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	NL

<sup>1</sup> Federal status abbreviations: T -Threatened; T(S/A) – Threatened (Similarity of Appearance); E – Endangered; C- Candidate species for federal listing; NL- Not Listed

**Approach:** A group of eight (8) large property owners, collectively identified as the Eastern Collier Property Owners (ECPO), has initiated major steps to work towards establishment of the MSHCP. ECPO has already invested a significant amount of time, resources, and money to advance the MSHCP process, prior to receiving any federal matching funds. These efforts have been and are endorsed by many environmental NGOs and other stakeholders (see letters of endorsement in Attachment 1).

The Eastern Collier MSHCP was previously awarded a Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grant in FY2012, for \$149,949 (out of a requested amount of \$270,000). Under the FY2012 grant, the deliverables due by September 30, 2013 include:

- A complete initial draft of the MSHCP document
- Details of HCP plan elements/thresholds and funding mechanisms
- Publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) for an EIS in the *Federal Register*



As evidence of progress made to date, ECPO and its consultants have held a series of internal meetings related to the design and implementation of the MSHCP. ECPO's technical consultants have compiled and reviewed a large volume of scientific literature related to the MSHCP, and will begin the draft MSHCP document this month. ECPO worked with FWS to produce a third-party EIS bid package in early 2012, which was sent to qualified consulting firms within Florida. A third-party EIS consultant was selected by FWS in October 2012, and is poised to begin preparations for public scoping and publication of the NOI under the FY2012 grant.

This grant application seeks to build upon these existing activities by initiating and completing the following discrete activities in FY2013 (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014). Time estimates were arrived at in consultation with FWS and through use of an EIS timeline spreadsheet. Due to the number of activities and multiple parties involved with development of the MSHCP, EIS, and Implementing Agreement documents, some activities overlap in time. The schedule assumes the effective date of the grant award document is November 2013.

**DISCRETE ACTIVITY**

**START POINT – END POINT**

Third-party EIS consultant analyzes public comments to be considered in EIS

November 2013 – December 2013

Third-party EIS consultant prepares first administrative draft of DEIS (submitted to FWS in February 2014)

November 2013 – February 2014 (*FWS review from March – May 2014*)

Per FWS comments on initial MSHCP draft, applicant's technical consultant prepares second draft of MSHCP document (second draft submitted March 2014)

January 2014 – March 2014 (*FWS review from April – June 2014*)

Applicant's legal and technical consultants develop first draft of Implementing Agreement (submittal to FWS in March 2014)

January 2014 – March 2014 (*FWS review from April – June 2014*)

Per FWS comments, third-party EIS consultant prepares second administrative draft of DEIS (submittal to FWS in September 2014)

July – September 2014

Applicant's technical consultant prepares final draft of MSHCP document (per FWS review from April – June 2014); submittal of final draft to FWS

July – September 2014

Applicant's legal and technical consultants prepare second

July – September 2014

draft of Implementing Agreement (submittal to FWS in September 2014)

For this FY2013 grant application, the deliverables will be the MSHCP, DEIS and Implementing Agreement documents, which will have undergone at least two full reviews by FWS, and will be ready for review by the FWS Regional Office and Solicitor.

**Location:** The location of the area for the proposed HCP is 177,000+/-acre area located in the eastern portion of Collier County, Florida as depicted on Figure 1.

**Estimated Costs:** ECPO's efforts and total costs for consultants necessary to complete the activities identified for FY2013 under *Approach*, above, are estimated at \$1,207,908, not including expenditures to date. The proposed percentage of cost share provided by non-Federal partners (primarily allowable costs incurred by ECPO) is 50 percent, which would correspond to a grant award of \$615,408 if fully funded. Full funding of the Eastern Collier MSHCP, the second largest private-sector HCP in the southeastern United States, will allow the project to maintain the projected schedule and secure significant conservation measures for the Florida panther and nine other covered species.

The estimated costs for producing the DEIS (\$635,000) are in accordance with past DEIS costs for projects of similar size and complexity. The number is also consistent with the mean estimates from multiple bids received by FWS for the Eastern Collier MSHCP third-party EIS contractor. The multi-party DEIS working meetings and calls anticipate a minimum of 240 hours of conference calls between the third-party EIS consultant, FWS, the applicant, NGOs, and/or the applicant's consultants, along with a minimum of four (4) all-day meetings in Vero Beach or Naples, Florida.

Two revisions to the draft MSHCP document are in accordance with HCP costs for other projects, especially considering the large size of this MSHCP (177,000± acres), the number of covered species (12), and the number of ITP co-permittees (initially 8, with the capacity to add others). The budget assumes a minimum of eight (4) all-day internal meetings between the co-permittees and their consultant(s), and a minimum of four (4) half-day meetings with FWS in Vero Beach, Florida.

Development and finalization of the Implementing Agreement (IA) comprises the most complex and intensive work effort associated with the MSHCP. The drafting and negotiating of the IA involves eight co-permittees (ECPO members), three environmental NGOs, FWS, technical consultants, legal consultants, and other stakeholders within the MSHCP area. The estimated costs reflect the number of parties involved, the number of covered species (12), the size and complexity of the MSHCP, and the logistics of negotiating a long-term (50 year) Implementing

Agreement that is acceptable to all parties. Due to the complexity and uniqueness of this MSHCP, the draft IA will require a large amount of original text that will be drafted by the applicant's legal consultant. The budget assumes 80 hours of conferences calls amongst the parties to the IA negotiations, and four (4) all day meetings in Naples or Vero Beach, Florida.

An overview of the project activities for FY2013 is provided in Table 2. A more detailed breakdown of estimated costs and the applicant match can be found in Table 3.

Given the large total cost of the MSHCP effort, ECPO cannot expend the full amount required to bring the MSHCP into its final review stages. The FY2013, if fully funded as shown in Table 3, will push the Eastern Collier MSHCP into its final stages, securing major conservation actions for the Florida panther and the 11 other covered species.

**Table 2: Estimated costs by Activity**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>
Preparation of DEIS document (includes analysis of public comments, initial draft and two revisions per FWS comments)	\$ 635,000
Revisions to MSHCP document (two technical revisions per FWS comments and feedback from EIS process; legal review)	\$ 180,000
Preparation of Implementing Agreement (includes internal meetings; legal consulting fees; technical consulting fees; meetings with FWS; two revisions per FWS comments and feedback from EIS process)	\$ 370,000
FWC Direct and Indirect Grant-Related Costs	\$ 22,908
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 1,207,908</b>

**Table 3. Cost breakdowns for the Eastern Collier MSHCP in FY2013**

ACTIVITY*	APPLICANT 50% MATCH	FEDERAL HCP GRANT REQUEST	TOTAL
<b>PREPARATION OF DEIS DOCUMENT</b>			
Analysis/incorporation of public comments	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
Preparation of first DEIS draft	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$280,000
Preparation of second DEIS draft	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$140,000
Multi-party DEIS working meetings and calls	\$87,500	\$87,500	\$175,000
<b>DEIS Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$317,500</b>	<b>\$317,500</b>	<b>\$635,000</b>
<b>REVISIONS TO MSHCP DOCUMENT</b>			
MSHCP revisions from first FWS review and EIS process	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$90,000
MSHCP revisions from second FWS review and EIS process	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$45,000
Legal consulting and document review	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
Internal meetings and meetings with FWS	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
<b>MSHCP Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>
<b>PREPARATION OF IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT (IA)</b>			
Meetings/negotiations between co-permittees, NGOs, and FWS	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$110,000
Technical consulting fees for drafting IA text	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
Legal consulting fees for drafting IA text and side agreements	\$62,500	\$62,500	\$150,000
Two revisions of draft IA per FWS comments	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
<b>IA Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>	<b>\$370,000</b>
<b>FWC DIRECT AND INDIRECT GRANT-RELATED COSTS</b>			
Direct costs for FWC staff time	-	\$20,314	\$20,314
Indirect costs for FWC	-	\$2,594	\$2,594
<b>FWC Sub-Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$22,908</b>	<b>\$22,908</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$592,500</b>	<b>\$615,408</b>	<b>\$1,207,908</b>
* Explanations for each Activity are provided in the grant application narrative			

## RANKING CRITERIA SUMMARY

**Species Benefits:** This grant application supports development of a multispecies HCP to include 12 covered species (as listed on the eventual permit; Table 1), including the endangered Florida panther. As a wide-ranging species, panther protection and recovery require the planning of conservation and conservation measures on a landscape scale. By establishing this regional MSHCP, large swaths of habitat and wildlife corridors can be protected to benefit to the Florida panther, and to benefit the 11 other covered species that occupy the landscape matrix needed to support panther. The two non-listed species covered under the permit, white-tailed deer and feral hog, provide the primary prey base for panther.

The MSHCP will protect habitat within a portion of the panther's core population area. In the context of climate change, the Florida Natural Area Inventory (FNAI) has estimated that "The Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) would lose about 15% of current habitat with 1 meter of

sea level rise and up to half with a rise of 3 meters” (FNAI, 2011; Atlas of Florida’s Natural Heritage; [http://www.fnai.org/PDF/Atlas\\_Climate\\_Change.pdf](http://www.fnai.org/PDF/Atlas_Climate_Change.pdf)). The MSHCP area (Figure 1) occurs on a regional topographic high known as the Immokalee Rise, with elevations ranging from 4-15 meters (13-45 feet) above current sea level. This area of relatively high land is therefore important for long-term conservation of the core panther population, whether under current or future climate (sea level rise) scenarios.

**Ecosystem Benefits:** The 177,000± acre MSHCP area (Figure 1) contains a diverse mix of native habitats (upland forests, wetland forests, herbaceous wetlands, and dry prairies) occurring as a landscape matrix with agricultural fields, ranchlands, and compact developments. The MSHCP proposes that approximately 132,000± acres of native habitats and agricultural lands be protected to provide large swaths of interconnected habitats that support the 12 covered species.

The native habitats within the MSHCP area require minimal management and contain all of the natural occurring biotic and abiotic factors necessary for a fully functioning ecosystem. Indeed, it is the vastness, diversity, and quality of the natural ecosystems that have long supported panthers in the first place. The interspersed agricultural fields and ranchlands also provide support for most of the covered species, and actually serve as primary habitat for the northern crested caracara.

**Fostering HCP Partnerships:** ECPO itself is comprised of eight stakeholders who are large property owners. The history of the RLSA and MSHCP processes has been a hallmark of open dialogue and partnering between the ECPO property owners, environmental NGOs, other property owners within the MSHCP area, state and local governments, and business interests. At a minimum, stakeholders include the eight ECPO property owners, three major environmental NGOs (Defenders of Wildlife, Florida Wildlife Federation, and Audubon of Florida), an unknown number of property owners within the MSHCP area, the Gulf Citrus Growers, and the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce (13 stakeholders minimum). The Implementing Agreement will contain provisions for a “Certificate of Participation,” similar to some California HCPs, that will allow other property owners within the MSHCP area to participate after issuance of the Incidental Take Permit. Multiple endorsement letters from various stakeholders are included at the end of this document as Attachment 1.

**Delivery or Completion:** ECPO has demonstrated a strong commitment to pursuing the MSHCP process, and has coordinated closely with FWS. Significant initial steps in the MSHCP process have thus far been undertaken solely at ECPOs expense with the expressed purpose of following through the full implementation of the MSHCP. These past, current and future work

efforts demonstrate a clear commitment by ECPO to further the goals of panther and other listed species conservation via the MSHCP.

The discrete activities listed under the *Approach* section will effectively finalize the MSHCP planning process, as they will result in the delivery of a MSHCP document, a DEIS document, and an Implementing Agreement that are sufficient for review by the FWS Regional Office and Solicitor. The schedule for these discrete activities builds in sufficient review time for FWS, and anticipates delivery of the MSHCP, DEIS, and IA documents well before the end of 2014.

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**(STAKEHOLDER ENDORSEMENT LETTERS)**





Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary  
375 Sanctuary Road  
Naples, FL 34120-4865  
[www.fl.audubon.org](http://www.fl.audubon.org)



1020 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South, Suite 2  
Naples, FL 34102  
239-643-7822  
[www.collieraudubon.org](http://www.collieraudubon.org)

January 26, 2012

Tom Ostertag  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Trish Adams, HCP Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

RE: Eastern Collier County Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan Section 6 Grant

Dear Mr. Ostertag and Ms. Adams:

For more than ten years, Audubon Florida and Collier County Audubon Society have had constructive and collaborative relationships with the major landowners in the 180,000 acres of private agricultural and natural lands surrounding Immokalee in eastern Collier County. Our mutual habitat and wetland conservation interests have led us, along with other conservation groups, to forge the innovative Florida Panther Protection Program ([www.FloridaPantherProtection.com](http://www.FloridaPantherProtection.com)) based on the Rural Land Stewardship Program in the same area. This group of landowners, under the collective organization called the Eastern Collier Property Owners (ECPO), with our participation and input, is pursuing a multi-species regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). In addition, they are currently applying for grant funding under the Endangered Species Act Section 6 to assist in their completion of the HCP.

Collier County Audubon Society and Audubon Florida fully support these important endeavors for their landscape level habitat and imperiled species benefits and urge a positive response to their current HCP Section 6 grant application.

Sincerely,

Southwest Florida Policy Associate  
Collier County Audubon Society and Audubon Florida



11741 Palm Beach Blvd., Ste 202  
Fort Myers, FL 33905  
Phone: 239-690-0281  
Fax: 239-690-0857  
Website: [gulfcitrus.org](http://gulfcitrus.org)

---

January 26, 2012

Mr. Tom Ostertag  
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission  
620 S. Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Trish Adams  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1339 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

**Subject: Endorsement of Multi-Species HCP for Eastern Lands of Collier County, Florida**

Dear Mr. Ostertag and Ms. Adams:

It has come to our attention, that the Eastern Collier Property Owners (ECPO), a group of property owners representing the vast majority of lands within approximately 196,000 acres in rural eastern Collier County, has initiated the process to establish a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for that portion of the county. This letter from the Gulf Citrus Growers Association is to support the concept and plan as proposed to establish this important HCP in eastern Collier County. Our organization has been actively engaged in working with interested agencies and organizations on conservation programs aimed at protecting natural resources throughout Southwest Florida, and has provided input regarding the future of the Florida panther and other listed species in our region for over 25 years.

Further, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association understands that ECPO is submitting an application for grant funding under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and fully supports this application along with the goals and purpose of this HCP. We wholeheartedly believe that regional ecological benefits will be realized as a result of this initiative. The Gulf Citrus Growers Association is a trade association representing the citrus growing industry in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties.

Sincerely;

Ron Hamel, executive vice president  
Gulf Citrus Growers Association



**Florida Office**

223 3rd Street North, Suite 201 | St. Petersburg, FL 33701 | tel 727.823.3888 | fax 727.823.3873  
[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)

January 27, 2012

Tom Ostertag, Biological Scientist  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
W.D. Bloxham Building  
725 South Calhoun Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Trish Adams, HCP Coordinator  
U.S Fish and Wildlife Service  
South Florida Ecological Services Field Office  
1339 20th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Re: Endorsement of Application for Section 6 Funding to Support Development of Eastern Collier County Multi-Species HCP, Florida

Mr. Ostertag and Ms. Adams:

We are writing to express our support for ECPO's application for Section 6 grant funding to help develop a Panther/Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Eastern Collier County. Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) is a national, non-profit membership organization dedicated to the protection of native wild animals and plants in their natural communities.

ECPO, a group of property owners representing the vast majority of lands within an area of approximately 196,000 acres in rural eastern Collier County, has begun the process to establish an HCP for eastern Collier County. Defenders strongly supports the concept and plan to establish this important HCP. Further, for the past several years, we have worked with the major landowners and provided substantial input regarding conservation of the Florida panther and the other listed species in southwest Florida.

Defenders fully supports moving forward with establishing the HCP to further conservation of the Florida panther and other covered species.

Sincerely,

Laurie Macdonald  
Florida Director

Elizabeth Fleming  
Florida Representative  
**National Headquarters**  
1130 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036-4604  
tel 202.682.9400 | fax 202.682.1331



# FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

*Affiliated With National Wildlife Federation*

Southwest Florida Office  
2590 Golden Gate Parkway, Suite 105  
Naples, Florida 34105

Office Phone: (239) 643-4111  
Cell: (239) 784-5119  
Email: [nancypayton@fvfonline.org](mailto:nancypayton@fvfonline.org)

January 26, 2012

Trish Adams  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Vero Beach, Florida

Tom Ostertag  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Tallahassee, Florida

RE: Endorsement of Eastern Collier Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan  
Collier County, Florida

Dear Ms. Adams and Mr. Ostertag:

Florida Wildlife Federation supports the Eastern Collier Property Owners' application for grant funding under Section 6 of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The grant will assist in the development of a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for approximately 196,000 acres in eastern Collier County.

The Federation's Southwest Florida Office is dedicated to the protection and recovery of the endangered Florida panther and other listed species native to the Western Everglades. For years the Federation has been working with the Eastern Collier Property Owners, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and conservation colleagues to implement a preservation strategy for rural eastern Collier County.

The Eastern Collier Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan can be that comprehensive program and can serve as the nucleus of a wider vision for a regional network of protected wildlife habitat across the Western Everglades.

The Federation looks forward to working with the wildlife agencies, property owners, and interested parties as the Habitat Conservation Plan moves forward.

Sincerely,

*Nancy A. Payton*

Nancy A. Payton  
Southwest Florida Field Representative

cc: Manley Fuller, Florida Wildlife Federation



January 26, 2012

Trish Adams  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Vero Beach, Florida

Tom Ostertag  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Tallahassee, Florida

Subject: Endorsement of Eastern Collier Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan  
Collier County, Florida

Dear Ms. Adams and Mr. Ostertag:

On behalf of requests from Brad Cornell, Collier County Audubon Society, and Nancy Payton, Florida Wildlife Federation, the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce submits this letter in support of the Eastern Collier Habitat Conservation Plan for the Florida panther and other endangered wildlife.

The goal of this Habitat Conservation Plan is to protect a significant, contiguous range of Florida panther habitat while balancing the property rights of landowners.

The Eastern Collier Habitat Conservation Plan will be a boon not only to endangered species, but will also aid the economic advancement of eastern Collier County because the wildlife permitting obligations will be fulfilled prior to development. When a company is deciding where to locate, the approved Habitat Conservation Plan could be the card that tips the scale in favor of Collier County over another region.

The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce endorses the Eastern Collier Property Owners' application for grant funding under Section 6 of the U.S. Endangered Species Act to develop a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Reagen'.

Michael V. Reagen, Ph.D.  
President & CEO  
The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce <sup>tm</sup>  
& Leadership Collier Foundation <sup>tm</sup>

### Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

In the Recovery Land Acquisition Grants program, seven Regions submitted 23 eligible proposals. Of these, full funding is recommended for 16 projects.

Table 1

Project Title	Region	State	Funded Amount
Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve (NAP) In-Holdings	1	WA	\$749,400
Kalauao Acquisition and Endangered Species Recovery	1	HI	\$578,250
Solana Ranch Preserve RLA	2	TX	\$881,250
Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Land Acquisition Central Sands Phase II	3	WI	\$759,000
Building a Conservation Corridor for Recovery of Federally Listed Species, AR	4	AR	\$1,342,687
Acquisition of the Ironstob-Braswell Mountain Tract within the Raccoon Creek Basin, a Tributary to the Etowah River in Paulding County, Georgia	4	GA	\$1,000,000
Listed Species Recovery on the Lake Wales Ridge Conservation Easement for the Robinson Property, FL	4	FL	\$854,364
Conservation of Habitat for the Spotfin Chub, Littlewing Pearlymussel, and Appalachian Elktoe, NC (Duvall)	4	NC	\$142,500
Acquisition of a Bog Turtle Site of Global Significance in PA	5	PA	\$262,500
Sussex County Bog Turtle Recovery #1	5	NJ	\$40,000
Sussex County Bog Turtle Recovery #2	5	NJ	\$400,000
Recovery Land Acquisition for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle	6	NE	\$190,301
Segelke-Carey Ranch Acquisition	6	CO	\$400,000
Upper Sevenmile Creek Flow Restoration Easement	8	OR	\$355,719
Upper Summers Meadow	8	CA	\$868,000
San Diego Mountain Ranch	8	CA	\$619,200
Total			\$9,443,172

### HCP Planning Assistance Grants

In the HCP Planning Assistance Grants program, four Regions submitted 14 eligible proposals. Full funding is recommended for all 14 projects.

Table 2

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State(s)</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>
Deschutes Basin MSHCP	1	OR	\$410,000
South Puget Sound Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan	1	WA	\$626,687
Coordination and Planning of the Kauai Seabird Conservation Program	1	HI	\$445,331
Kauai Nene Island-wide HCP	1	HI	\$508,348
Phase 2: Development of a MSHCP for Wind Energy Development in the Midwest	3	IN, MI, MO	\$950,000
City of Crossville and Cumberland County; Development of Habitat Conservation Plans for the Cumberlands Region, Tennessee	4	TN	\$645,366
Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches	4	FL	\$735,098
Eastern Collier County Multiple Species Habitat Plan	4	FL	\$615,408
Lower Flint River Basin	4	GA	\$263,458
Development of a Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan in Polk County	4	FL	\$277,029
Bay Delta Conservation Plan NCCP/HCP	8	CA	\$410,818
Placer County Conservation Plan	8	CA	\$911,500
Yolo County HCP	8	CA	\$999,000
Owens and Mono Basins Riparian HCP	8	CA	\$182,250
Total Funding			\$7,980,293



### **HCP Land Acquisition Grants**

Six Regions submitted 17 eligible proposals for HCP Land Acquisition Grants funding. Four of these proposals will receive full funding and two will receive partial funding (\*).

Table 3

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State(s)</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>
Mountain View 4-O Ranch 2013	1	WA	\$2,000,000
I-90 Wildlife Corridor Phase V	1	WA	\$2,000,000
Washington County HCP Desert Tortoise Acquisition*	6	UT	\$1,419,266
Coachella Valley MSHCP	8	CA	\$3,000,000
San Diego County Water Authority Subregional NCCP/HCP	8	CA	\$3,000,000
Western Riverside County MSHCP*	8	CA	\$2,773,398
<b>Total Funding</b>			<b>\$14,192,664</b>

\* Indicates partial funding awarded

In order to assess the progress toward completion of projects receiving Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund grants in previous fiscal years, HQ needs information on the status of these projects. Please submit an update on the status of projects selected to receive Recovery Land Acquisition funds in FY2005 through FY2012 (Table 4), for projects selected to receive HCP Planning Assistance funds in FY2003 through FY 2012 (Table 5), and for projects selected to receive HCP Land Acquisition funds in FY2000 through FY2012 (Table 6). Please submit an update on the status of these efforts including what portion of the funding has been spent, by what entity, and for acquisition projects, what parcels have been purchased. Please submit all status information to the Ecological Services program within 60 days of the date of this memorandum.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Mr. Don Morgan, Chief, Branch of Recovery and State Grants at (703) 358-2444.

Attachments

**Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Recovery Land Acquisition Grants  
(FY 2005 – FY 2012)**

**Table 4**

<b>Region</b>	<b>State(s)</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>
<b>FY 2005</b>			
8	NV	South Fork Little Humboldt/Snowstorm Mountain	\$600,000
<b>FY 2007</b>			
8	CA	Laguna Mountain Skipper, Palomar Mountain	\$1,372,000
8	CA	Los Vaqueros Ranch Conservation Easement	\$500,000
<b>FY 2008</b>			
1	HI	Hamakua Marsh Watershed Protection	\$740,000
2	OK	Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Acquisition	\$186,000
2	TX	Conservation Easement for Long Ranch, Bastrop County, Texas	\$564,750
3	MI	Copperbelly water snake habitat easement acquisition and protection along the Upper St. Joseph River	\$689,305
4	TN	Acquisition of Virgin Falls – Virginia spiraea	\$1,538,450
8	CA	Recovery Land Acquisition Grant for the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep	\$1,500,000
8	CA	Recovery Land Acquisition for California Red-legged Frog, Big Gun Site, Sierra Nevada	\$490,350
8	CA	Recovery Land Acquisition Grant for Jacumba-Eade	\$600,000
8	CA	Recovery Land Acquisition for San Diego Mountain Ranch	\$1,000,000
8	CA	Recovery Land Acquisition Grant for the Hunt Property	\$671,250
<b>FY 2009</b>			
1	OR	Cardwell Hill Conservation Easements	\$256,820
1	HI	Kainalu Forest Watershed	\$1,500,000
1	WA	San Juan Islands Castilleja Conservation	\$747,846
2	OK	An Ecoregion Approach for Recovery and Protection of Karst Dependent Federally Listed Species	\$569,790
3	OH, MI	Copperbelly Water Snake Habitat Acquisition	\$488,200
3	MO	Acquisition of Marquette Island an important resource for Pallid Sturgeon and Interior Least Tern Recovery on the Middle Mississippi River, Cape Girardeau	\$662,825
4	AR	An ecoregion approach for recovery and protection of karst dependent federally listed species	\$403,096
4	KY	Acquisition of Robinson Tracts, Licking River	\$1,097,000
4	LA	Acquisition of the Crosby Property	\$500,000
5	VT	Establishment of Raven Ridge Preserve – Indiana Bat	\$500,000
8	CA	Mojave River Riparian Area	\$2,266,869
8	CA	San Diego River - Hanlon-Walker	\$1,000,000
8	CA	Tecopa Land Acquisition	\$64,163
<b>FY 2010</b>			
1	HI	Kainalu Forest Watershed, Phase II	\$1,500,000
1	WA	Golden Paintbrush at Heritage Preserve	\$1,258,500
2	AZ	Triangle Bar Ranch Acquisition	\$1,025,000
2	TX	Land Acquisition of Important Whooping Crane Wintering Habitat in Holiday Beach	\$260,250

3	IA	Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	\$259,500
4	AR	Arkansas land acquisitions for the recovery of Geocarpus minimum	\$511,650
4	GA	Canoochee River corridor habitat conservation project: Warnell Easement Acquisition project	\$1,437,494
4	PR	San Miguel Natural Reserve – Phase III	\$1,500,000
5	VA	Protection of Sweet Springs Natural Area Preserve	\$123,900
5	WV	Acquisition of land in Cheat River Gorge to benefit the flat-spined three-toothed land snail and Indiana bat	\$816,595
6	MT	Saypo Cattle Ranch Easement, Rocky Mountain Front	\$392,007
6	NE	Land Acquisition for Habitat Protection of the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle in Lancaster County	\$275,000
6	UT	June Sucker Spawning and Stream Restoration in East Hobbie Creek	\$150,000
8	CA	Southwestern willow flycatcher, Lower Santa Clara River, Ventura County	\$1,000,000
8	CA	Kimball Valley - Arroyo Toad	\$500,000
8	CA	Dry Creek Ranch-East Conservation Easement Acquisition Project	\$500,000
8	NV	Black Rock Station Acquisition	\$420,000
8	NV	Revert Spring Acquisition	\$968,922
<b>FY 2011</b>			
1	OR	Willamette Valley	\$500,000
1	WA	Northern Blue Mountains Bull Trout Recovery	\$712,650
1	HI	East Maui Watershed Conservation Easement	\$391,000
1	OR	Yamhill Oaks- Pugh Property	\$267,000
2	AZ	Traingle Bar Phase II	\$1,000,000
2	TX	LPC Yoakum Dunes	\$730,644
3	MO	Recovery & Protection of Karst-Dependent Species in Missouri	\$534,750
3	WI	Prairie Bush Clover Recovery: Borah Creek	\$378,000
4	AR	Longview Saline	\$1,509,012
4	FL	Chapman's Rhododendron RLA in Gulf County	\$1,218,750
4	GA	Acquisition of the Howell Tract	\$656,287
4	FL	Lake Wales Ridge: Chillemmi Parcel	\$150,260
4	NC	Rough-leaved Loosestrife Land Acquisition	\$142,900
5	MD	Chesapeake Bay Puritan Tiger Beetle	\$2,426,055
6	CO	Turtle Ranch Conservation Easement	\$469,540
6	NE	Land Acquisition for Salt Creek Tiger Beetle	\$135,000
8	CA	Zayante Sandhills, Santa Cruz County	\$750,000
8	CA	Ocean Meadows/ Deveraux Slough	\$500,000
8	CA	Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander	\$925,000
8	CA	Peninsular Bighorn Sheep	\$500,000
<b>FY 2012</b>			
1	HI	Kukaiau Acquisition and Palila Habitat Restoration*	\$1,217,114
1	HI	Kahuku Coastline Protection and Management: Helping Habitat for Hawaiian Hawksbill Turtles	\$1,214,000
2	TX	Barker Tract RLA*	\$1,242,209
3	WI	Hine's Emerald Dragonfly RLA - Ridges Sanctuary	\$345,000
4	AL	Acquisition of the Hancock South Tract along the Little Cahaba River	\$1,000,000
5	WV	Acquisition of land in Cheat River Gorge*	\$700,000
6	NE	Paradise Valley: Salt Creek Tiger Beetle RLA	\$270,000

6	NE	Rowe Sanctuary RLA in Buffalo County *	\$200,000
6	UT	June Sucker Spawning and Stream Restoration in East Hobble Creek	\$157,500
8	CA	Kelsey Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition*	\$750,000
8	CA	Arrastre Canyon, Los Angeles*	\$350,000
8	CA	Shay Meadows Conservation Area Expansion*	\$300,000
8	OR	Upper Sevenmile Creek Flow Restoration Easement*	\$650,000
8	CA	Peninsular Bighorn Sheep*	\$88,177

## HCP Planning Assistance Grants (FY 2003 – FY 2012)

**Table 5**

<b>Region</b>	<b>State(s)</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>
<b>FY 2003</b>			
2	TX	Williamson County Regional HCP	\$200,000
<b>FY 2004</b>			
5	MD	HCP for Delmarva Fox Squirrel and Timber	\$128,625
<b>FY 2005</b>			
3	IL	Hine's Emerald Dragonfly on public and private land in Illinois HCP	\$370,163
4	AR	The Big Woods of Arkansas	\$250,250
6	UT	Development of a New Iron County HCP	\$150,000
<b>FY 2006</b>			
4	AR	The Big Woods of Arkansas	\$250,140
4	FL	Development of a HCP for Shoreline Protection on Walton County Beaches	\$446,000
6	NE	Salt Creek Tiger Beetle and Eastern Saline Wetlands HCP	\$500,000
6	UT	Development of a New Iron County HCP	\$150,000
<b>FY 2007</b>			
4	AR	The Big Woods of Arkansas - Year 3	\$231,250
4	FL	Development of a Statewide HCP for Florida Beaches	\$257,247
6	NE	Salt Creek Tiger Beetle and Eastern Saline Wetlands HCP	\$150,000
<b>FY 2008</b>			
8	CA	Yuba Sutter Counties, California, Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan	\$360,696
8	CA	San Luis Obispo Northeast County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan	\$500,000
8	CA	Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan	\$364,800
6	UT	Garfield County HCP Development	\$58,080
4	FL	Development of a HCP for the City of Cape Coral, FL	\$151,450
4	FL	Development of a Statewide HCP for Florida Beaches	\$479,518
4	AR	The Big Woods of Arkansas	\$225,500
4	FL	Development of a HCP for Scrub Habitats in Highlands County, FL	\$277,247
4	FL	Development of a HCP for Charlotte County, FL	\$226,390
<b>FY 2009</b>			
1	OR	Conservation Planning for Oregon Highway Right-of-ways: Development of a State-wide Multi-species HCP	\$477,963
1	OR	Yamhill County, Oregon Multi-species HCP	\$391,000
1	WA	Washington Wildlife Areas HCP	\$741,034
1	HI	Coordination and Planning of the Kauai Seabird HCP	\$789,892
2	TX	Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program HCP	\$1,063,125
2	TX	Southern Edwards Plateau HCP	\$1,340,691
2/6	Multiple	Development of a multi-state Whooping Crane and Lesser Prairie-Chicken HCP for Wind Development	\$1,080,990
4	TN	Development of HCPs for Cumberlands Region of TN	\$855,584
8	CA	Butte Regional Habitat/Natural Community Conservation Plan	\$715,451
8	CA	City of San Diego Vernal Pool Species HCP	\$615,000
8	CA	Yolo County HCP/NCCP	\$634,988

<b>FY 2010</b>			
1	HI	Completion of the North Kona Game Mammal HCP	\$183,000
1	OR	Upper Deschutes Basin Multi-Species HCP	\$407,400
1	WA	Washington State Hydraulic Project HCP	\$753,553
1	WA	Washington DNR Aquatic Lands, Phase IV	\$330,000
1	WA	Washington State Wildlife Areas HCP	\$481,637
2	AZ	Development of a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for the City of Tucson	\$299,795
3	IN, IA, MI, MO, OH	Development of a multi-species HCP for wind energy development in the Midwest	\$3,362,364
4	FL	Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches	\$947,424
4	FL	Regional Habitat Conservation Plan for Indian River and St. Lucie Co.	\$286,298
4	FL	Scrub Habitats in Lake County	\$153,820
4	TN	Development of HCPs for Cumberlands Region	\$716,630
5	ME	State of Maine Water and Forest Programmatic Habitat Conservation Plan-Phase I	\$173,250
6	NE	Habitat Conservation Plan for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle and Eastern Saline Wetlands	\$180,000
8	CA	Bay-Delta Conservation Plan	\$673,192
8	CA	South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan	\$489,646
<b>FY 2011</b>			
1	WA	South Puget Sound Prairie HCP	\$450,000
1	HI	Kaua'i Seabird Multi-Species HCP	\$259,281
1	HI	Baseline Surveys for Two Wind Power HCPs in the State of Hawaii	\$900,000
1	OR	Deschutes Basin Multi-Species HCP	\$410,000
2	TX	Developing a GCP for the Golden-Cheeked Warbler and Black-Capped Vireo in Central Texas	\$388,887
4	FL	Statewide HCP for Florida Beaches	\$900,484
4	FL	Development of a Multi-Species HCP in Polk County	\$244,653
4	FL	Scrub HCP for Charlotte County, Florida	\$89,084
4	FL	Gulf County Florida Beaches HCP	\$312,497
4	TN	Development of HCPs for the Cumberland Region	\$978,439
8	CA	Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Habitat Conservation Plan	\$974,250
8	CA	South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan	\$994,500
8	CA	Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDGP) Public Involvement and Outreach	\$366,000
8	CA	Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Measure M2 NCCP/HCP	\$732,000
8	CA	Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP)	\$537,195
8	CA	Yuba and Sutter Counties HCP/NCCP	\$807,390
8	CA	Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan NCCP/HCP	\$1,000,000
8	CA	Metropolitan Bakersfield (California) Habitat Conservation Plan (MBHCP)	\$427,000
<b>FY 2012</b>			
1	OR	Deschutes Basin Multi-Species HCP	\$407,000
1	OR	ODOT Right-of-Way HCP	\$127,067
1	OR	Yamhill County Private Lands HCP for Upland Prairie Species Phase II	\$292,611
1	WA	South Puget Sound Prairie HCP	\$750,000

4	FL	Statewide HCP for Florida Beaches	\$766,014
4	FL	Highlands County Multi-Species HCP	\$300,250
4	FL	East Collier County Multi-Species HCP*	\$149,949
4	GA	Lower Flint River Basin HCP	\$199,878
4	TN	City of Crossville and Cumberland County HCP	\$719,024
5	PA	HCP for Indiana Bats Associated with Forest Management Activities on PA State Game Lands and PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources State Forests and State Park Lands	\$600,000
8	CA	The Bay Delta HCP/NCCP	\$640,575
8	CA	Northeast San Luis Obispo County HCP/NCCP	\$275,000
8	CA	Valley Floor (Kern) HCP	\$428,019
8	CA	Butte Regional HCP/NCCP	\$999,999
8	CA	Bakersfield Regional HCP	\$945,000
8	CA	Town of Apple Valley HCP/NCCP	\$813,750
8	CA	City of Colton HCP	\$70,875
6,2	MT, ND, SD, NE, KS, CO, OK, TX, NM	Interior Least Tern and Piping Plover: Inclusion in the Great Plains Wind Energy HCP	\$999,989

## HCP Land Acquisition Grants (FY 2000 – FY 2012)

**Table 6**

<b>Region</b>	<b>State(s)</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>
<b>FY 2000</b>			
8	CA	Natomas Basin	\$905,000
<b>FY 2001</b>			
8	CA	Natomas Basin	\$4,023,800
<b>FY 2002</b>			
8	CA	Fieldstone HCP, County Core	\$2,000,000
<b>FY 2003</b>			
8	CA	San Diego MSCP – Sloan Canyon	\$4,875,000
<b>FY 2004</b>			
2	TX	Storm Ranch, Texas Conservation Easement	\$1,766,004
8	CA	Fieldstone NCCP/HCP	\$1,512,900
<b>FY 2005</b>			
6	UT	Iron County HCPLA for Utah Prairie Dogs	\$600,000
6	UT	Washington County Desert Tortoise	\$10,000,000
8	CA	Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan	\$5,000,000
<b>FY 2006</b>			
1	WA	Ashford Spotted Owl Project-Phase II	\$5,673,196
1	WA	Little White Salmon Corridor Project-Phase II	\$4,913,683
1	WA	Washington DNR HCP - Barr Creek Forest Protection	\$447,600
1	WA	Methow Watershed Phase 4 (Plum Creek Central Cascade HCP)	\$4,380,120
6	MT	Native Fish HCP - Blackfoot Easement Project	\$2,699,000
8	CA	San Joaquin Multi-species HCP	\$6,531,054
8	CA	Western Riverside County MSHCP	\$12,000,000
<b>FY 2007</b>			
1	WA	Plum Creek HCP - I-90 Wildlife Corridor, Phase III - Keechelus Ridge	\$4,191,500
6	MT	Native Fish HCP: Blackfoot Easement Project	\$3,887,375
8	CA	Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard HCP	\$1,542,000
8	CA	San Joaquin Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan	\$7,000,000
8	CA	San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Plan	\$23,103,592
<b>FY 2008</b>			
1	WA	Okanogan-Similkameen, Phase I	\$5,000,000
1	WA	Methow Watershed, Phase 5	\$1,487,781
6	MT	Blackfoot River Easement Project	\$6,515,319
8	CA	City of San Diego MSCP – East Elliott and Otay Mesa Regions	\$4,918,000
8	CA	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan: Mount Diablo Foothills	\$6,000,000
<b>FY 2009</b>			
1	WA	I-90 Wildlife Corridor, Phase IV	\$6,000,000
1	WA	Methow Watershed, Phase 6	\$2,000,000
1	WA	Okanogan-Similkameen Watershed, Phase 2	\$4,000,000
1	WA	Ashford Project, Phase III: Emmons, Ward, Hancock A, Quigley, and Hancock B Parcels	\$3,557,219
4	AL	Alabama Red Hills Salamanders	\$4,140,000




6	MT	Clearwater Lands Project	\$6,000,000
8	CA	City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan, Northwest San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan, San Diego County, CA	\$6,000,000
8	CA	Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan	\$6,000,000
8	CA	Trump National Golf Club Habitat Conservation Plan – Ocean Trails Habitat Conservation Plan	\$1,500,000
8	CA	County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program	\$6,000,000
8	CA	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Upper Marsh Creek Watershed	\$2,500,000
<b>FY 2010</b>			
1	WA	Methow Watershed, Phase 7	\$4,500,000
1	WA	Okanogan-Similkameen Watershed, Phase 3	\$1,500,000
1	WA	Mt. St. Helen's Forest	\$6,000,000
1	WA	Mt. Si Inholding	\$1,200,000
1	WA	Puyallup River Levee Setback	\$271,700
3	WI	Karner blue butterfly HCPLA - Quincy Bluffs and Wetlands SNA and Karner Blue Meadow SNA	\$452,000
4	FL	Flamingo Waterway Scrub Parcel	\$1,687,531
6	MT	Clearwater Lands Project	\$6,000,000
8	CA	City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan (HMP), Northwest San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan (MHCP), San Diego County	\$6,000,000
8	CA	San Diego Multi Species Conservation Program	\$6,000,000
8	CA	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan: Byron to Black Diamond Conservation Corridor	\$6,000,000
<b>FY 2011</b>			
1	WA	Methow Watershed Phase VIII	\$3,500,000
2	TX	Cobb Cavern Land Acquisition	\$1,130,625
3	WI	Karner Blue Butterfly Land Acquisition	\$360,000
4	FL	Perdido Key Beach Mouse Conservation	\$2,967,022
4	FL	Summer Haven & Porpoise Point Parcels	\$210,017
6	MT	Stimson Forestlands Conservation Project	\$4,000,000
8	CA	Coachella Valley MSHCP	\$6,000,000
8	CA	San Diego County MSHCP	\$6,000,000
8	CA	East Contra Costa HCP/NCCP	\$4,463,936
<b>2012</b>			
1	OR	Bald Hill Farm & Mary's River	\$1,259,000
1	WA	Mountain View - 4-O Ranch	\$3,700,000
2	TX	La Cantera (Canyon Ranch) HCPLA*	\$1,519,400
3	WI	Karner Blue Butterfly and Kirtland's Warbler HCP Land Acquisition - Central Sands*	\$497,600
6	UT	Utah Prairie Dog HCP Land Acquisition Proposal	\$1,000,000

8	CA	Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan*	\$4,000,000
8	CA	City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan (HMP), Northwest San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan (MHCP), San Diego County, CA*	\$2,000,000
8	CA	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan*	\$1,000,000

\* Indicates partial funding awarded

# APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

<b>1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION:</b> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		<b>2. DATE SUBMITTED</b>	Applicant Identifier
Pre-application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		<b>3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE</b>	State Application Identifier
		<b>4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY</b>	Federal Identifier
<b>5. APPLICANT INFORMATION</b>			
Legal Name: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission		Organizational Unit: Department: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	
Organizational DUNS: 838-103893		Division: Habitat and Species Conservation	
Address: Street: 620 S. Meridian Street		Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code) Prefix: Mr. First Name: Thomas	
City: Tallahassee		Middle Name: E	
County: Leon		Last Name: Ostertag	
State: Florida	Zip Code: 32399-1600	Suffix:	
Country: USA		Email: Tom.Ostertag@myfwc.com	
<b>6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN):</b> 59-3105845		Phone Number (give area code) (850) 921-1033	Fax Number (give area code) (850) 921-1847
<b>8. TYPE OF APPLICATION:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es) (See back of form for description of letters.) Other (specify)		<b>7. TYPE OF APPLICANT:</b> (See back of form for Application Types) A. State Other (specify)	
<b>10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER:</b> 15-615 TITLE (Name of Program): Coop. Endangeres Species Fund		<b>9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY:</b> U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service	
<b>12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT</b> (Cities, Counties, States, etc.): Collier County, Florida		<b>11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT:</b> Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Plan, Collier County, Florida	
<b>13. PROPOSED PROJECT</b> Start Date: 01/01/2013 Ending Date: 12/31/2013		<b>14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:</b> a. Applicant ALL b. Project 14	
<b>15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:</b>		<b>16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?</b>	
a. Federal	\$ 218,259.00	a. Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON DATE:	
b. Applicant	\$	b. No. <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E. O. 12372	
c. State	\$ 73,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW	
d. Local	\$	<b>17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?</b>	
e. Other	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes" attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
f. Program Income	\$		
g. TOTAL	\$ 291,259.00		
<b>18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.</b>			
<b>a. Authorized Representative</b>			
Prefix Mr	First Name Eric	Middle Name	
Last Name Sutton	Suffix		
b. Title Director, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation		c. Telephone Number (give area code) (850) 617-3831	
d. Signature of Authorized Representative 		e. Date Signed 27 Jan 12	

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0043), Washington, DC 20503.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.**

This is a standard form used by applicants as a required face sheet for pre-applications and applications submitted for Federal assistance. It will be used by Federal agencies to obtain applicant certification that States which have established a review and comment procedure in response to Executive Order 12372 and have selected the program to be included in their process, have been given an opportunity to review the applicant's submission.

Item:	Entry:	Item:	Entry:
1.	Select Type of Submission.	11.	Enter a brief descriptive title of the project. If more than one program is involved, you should append an explanation on a separate sheet. If appropriate (e.g., construction or real property projects), attach a map showing project location. For preapplications, use a separate sheet to provide a summary description of this project.
2.	Date application submitted to Federal agency (or State if applicable) and applicant's control number (if applicable).	12.	List only the largest political entities affected (e.g., State, counties, cities).
3.	State use only (if applicable).	13.	Enter the proposed start date and end date of the project.
4.	Enter Date Received by Federal Agency Federal identifier number: If this application is a continuation or revision to an existing award, enter the present Federal Identifier number. If for a new project, leave blank.	14.	List the applicant's Congressional District and any District(s) affected by the program or project
5.	Enter legal name of applicant, name of primary organizational unit (including division, if applicable), which will undertake the assistance activity, enter the organization's DUNS number (received from Dun and Bradstreet), enter the complete address of the applicant (including country), and name, telephone number, e-mail and fax of the person to contact on matters related to this application.	15.	Amount requested or to be contributed during the first funding/budget period by each contributor. Value of in kind contributions should be included on appropriate lines as applicable. If the action will result in a dollar change to an existing award, indicate only the amount of the change. For decreases, enclose the amounts in parentheses. If both basic and supplemental amounts are included, show breakdown on an attached sheet. For multiple program funding, use totals and show breakdown using same categories as item 15.
6.	Enter Employer Identification Number (EIN) as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service.	16.	Applicants should contact the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Federal Executive Order 12372 to determine whether the application is subject to the State intergovernmental review process.
7.	Select the appropriate letter in the space provided. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> A. State B. County C. Municipal D. Township E. Interstate F. Intermunicipal G. Special District H. Independent School District </div> <div> I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning J. Private University K. Indian Tribe L. Individual M. Profit Organization N. Other (Specify) O. Not for Profit Organization </div> </div>	17.	This question applies to the applicant organization, not the person who signs as the authorized representative. Categories of debt include delinquent audit disallowances, loans and taxes.
8.	Select the type from the following list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"New" means a new assistance award.</li> <li>"Continuation" means an extension for an additional funding/budget period for a project with a projected completion date.</li> <li>"Revision" means any change in the Federal Government's financial obligation or contingent liability from an existing obligation. If a revision enter the appropriate letter:  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> A. Increase Award    B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration    D. Decrease Duration </div> </li> </ul>	18.	To be signed by the authorized representative of the applicant. A copy of the governing body's authorization for you to sign this application as official representative must be on file in the applicant's office. (Certain Federal agencies may require that this authorization be submitted as part of the application.)
9.	Name of Federal agency from which assistance is being requested with this application.		
10.	Use the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number and title of the program under which assistance is requested.		

# **Application for Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grant**

---

**“Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Plan”**

**Collier County, Florida**

Funding Opportunity Number: CESCOF-2012

CFDA Number: 15.615 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Submitted January 26, 2012

## PROJECT STATEMENT

Need: The last remaining population of Florida panther can be found in southwest Florida with the core population being mostly in Collier and Hendry Counties. Loss of panther habitat to land conversion to agriculture and development, along with habitat fragmentation, has reduced the acreage of native habitat appropriate to support the panther.

On a local and state level, a unique land use program, known as the Rural Land Stewardship Area Overlay Program (RLSA), has been established for a 196,000+/-acre area in eastern Collier County, where a significant number of panther home ranges exist. This program encourages conservation of higher quality habitats in exchange for development rights on more ecologically impacted lands. The evaluation of habitats is performed in a landscape context with a high degree of emphasis on panther and other listed species habitat needs. The RLSA has successfully demonstrated an ability to provide high quality compensation for panther and other listed species; however, no federal process currently exists or is in place for a parallel federal review of projects subject to the RLSP. The development and implementation of a multi-species HCP through the federal Endangered Species act will provide the federal parallel to the state/local RLS program and will achieve the primary goals of the Cooperative Agreement between the State of Florida and the Department of the Interior under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act.

Objective: The proposed Eastern Collier Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (herein MSHCP) application proposes the establishment of a regional Habitat Conservation Plan for the species identified in Table 1 for an approximately 177,000-acre area identified on the attached exhibit.



**Table 1: Covered species for the Eastern Collier MSHCP.**

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	FEDERAL STATUS <sup>1</sup>
<b>BIRDS</b>		
Florida scrub jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	T
Northern crested caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	T
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	E
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E
Everglade snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>	E
<b>REPTILES</b>		
American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	T(S/A)
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	T
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	C
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
Florida bonneted bat	<i>Eumops floridanus</i>	C
Florida panther	<i>Puma concolor coryi</i>	E

<sup>1</sup> Federal status abbreviations: T -Threatened; T(S/A) – Threatened (Similarity of Appearance); E – Endangered; C- Candidate species for federal listing; SR – currently under status review for listing

Initial steps toward the establishment of the HCP have been initiated by a group of landowners collectively identified as Eastern Collier Property Owners. LLC (ECPO) through discussions with FWS and various environmental stakeholder groups. A listing of key events and initiatives relative to the process are as follows:

- In 2002, Collier County and the state of Florida approved the Rural Land Stewardship Area (RLSA) Overlay Program, an incentive-based program designed to preserve wildlife habitat while directing future compact development to tracts of previously cleared lands exhibiting lower environmental value.

- In 2007, Defenders of Wildlife filed a notice of intent to sue against Ave Maria, the first planned development project under the RLSA program.
- In response to the 2007 filing, members of ECPO worked with multiple environmental NGOs to create a vehicle for achieving panther protection, balancing panther habitat conservation, agriculture, and planned development. ECPO and four environmental NGOs jointly signed a MOU in June 2008 to establish and advance the Florida Panther Protection Program (FPPP).
- A Scientific Review team (SRT), consisting of six experts in panther ecology, reviewed the FPPP relative to panther conservation goals. In a report issued in October 2009, the SRT concluded that the FPPP represented an advance in panther conservation, and offered additional recommendations to enhance the program.
- A major component of the FPPP is the Eastern Collier County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), developed in accordance with Section 10 of the ESA. The MSHCP covers the Florida panther and nine other federally listed or candidate species. A summary of the MSHCP elements was filed with USFWS in June 2010, along with an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) application.
- Developments of the initial portions of the MSHCP document are currently underway, and are anticipated to be submitted to USFWS in the first quarter of 2012. The current and upcoming MSHCP work includes research and writing on the following plan elements: program description and permitted activities; environmental setting; species accounts; proposed action; alternatives to the proposed action; potential impacts; conservation plan for covered species; funding mechanisms; and development of terms for the Implementing Agreement (IA).
- In a parallel effort alongside the MSHCP, ECPO and their consultant prepared a draft EIS bid package for engaging a third-party consultant to prepare an EIS of the HCP/ITP. The bid package was submitted to USFWS in February 2011 for agency review and comment.
- USFWS provided review comments on the EIS bid package to the authorized agent in July 2011. ECPO and their consultant are currently incorporating the review comments into the EIS bid package, in anticipation of issuing an RFQ for a third-party EIS contractor.

A breakdown of process tasks and timeline for which grant funding assistance is requested is presented below under the Approach section.

*Expected Results:* Establishment of the multiple species HCP will allow implementation of conservation measures for Florida panther and other listed species on a coordinated, landscape-level scale, rather than on a case-by-case basis. The existence of the HCP will



provide increase certainty to planning of future conservation, planning , agricultural, and development activities.

Approach: As indicated above, a group of property owners, collectively identified as ECPO, has initiated steps to work towards establishment of the HCP. These efforts have been and are endorsed by many environmental NGOs and other stakeholders (letters of endorsement attached). Remaining tasks to be completed and for which this grant application requests funding support are:

Grant Funding Year (assumed Sept 2012 –Sept 21013)

- Contractor scoping for the EIS (by ECPO for FWS)
- Initiation of the Formal EIS process (by FWS with ECPO support)
- Finalization and submittal of the MSHCP (by ECPO)
- Support iterative process between EIS and MSHCP document review
- Responses to requests for additional information (by ECPO)

Tasks anticipated beyond Grant Funding year

- Review final MSHCP
- Finalization of details of the Implementing Agreement by FWS/ECPO
- Preparation and noticing of draft and final EIS documents by FWS with ECPO support

T

Location: The location of the area for the proposed HCP is 177,000+/- acres located in the eastern portion of Collier County, Florida as depicted on the attached exhibit.

**Estimated Costs:** ECPO's efforts and costs for consultants necessary to achieve those portions of the tasks identified for the grant funding year under *Approach*, above, are estimated at \$270,000, not including expenditures to-date. The breakdown of these costs is presented in the table below.

Task Item	Timeframe	Planning Assistance Request \$	Non-federal Match- ECPO \$
Finalize Contractor scoping for the EIS (by ECPO for FWS)	Sept 2012	7,500	4,000
Initiation/Support of the Formal EIS process (by FWS with ECPO support)	Oct. 2012 through Jan 2013	40,000	13,000
Finalization and submittal of the MSHCP (by ECPO)	Sept 2012 through Jan 2013	65,000	24,000
Public Outreach meeting (x3)	Oct 2012, Feb 2013 Aug 2013	7,800	5,000
Support iterative process between EIS and MSHCP document review	Feb 2013 through May 2013	18,000	5,000
Responses to FWS requests for additional information for MSHCP (by ECPO)	Feb 2013 through July 2013	50,000	22,000
FWC Direct and Indirect Costs	Funding year	29,959	
<b>Total</b>		218,259	73,000

Therefore, ECPO commits to \$73,000 funding of the Grant year work described above, provided a grant funding of \$218,259 is awarded.

#### Grant Scoring Criteria Summary:

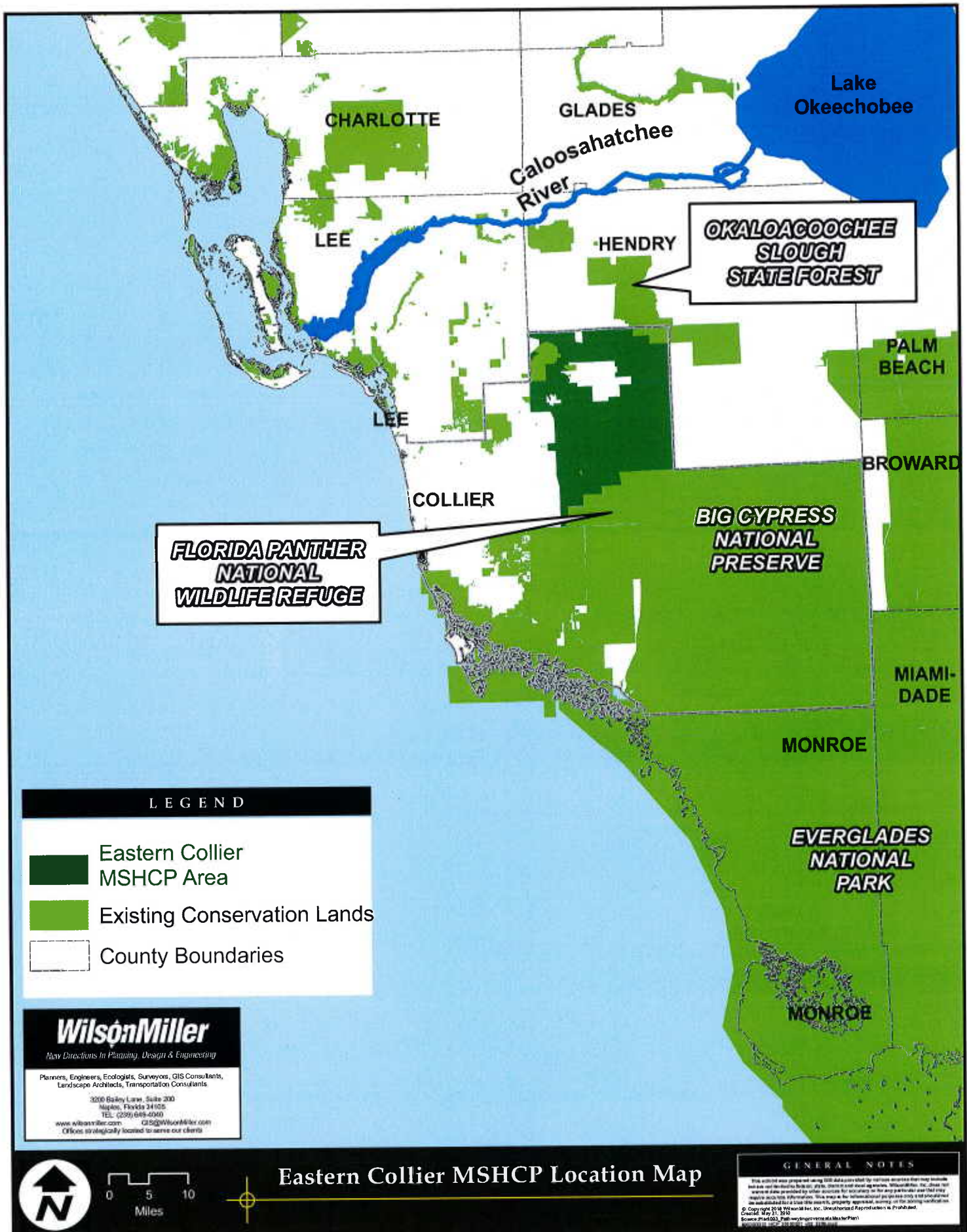
>Species Benefits: This grant request involves a proposed HCP to include 10 covered species, including the Florida panther. As a wide-ranging species, panther protection and recovery requires the planning of conservation and conservation measures on a landscape-scale. By establishing this regional HCP, the proper context for future land planning and land use can be made based on the benefits to the Florida panther and the nine other cover species which are coincidental to many of the habitats needed to support panther. The HCP, in conjunction with the established RLSA program, will further encourage the protection of higher quality habitats for species while directing future impacts to areas deemed less important to the covered species.

>Ecosystem benefits: The existing RLSA program for the subject area was developed with input from multiple stakeholders and focuses on protection of natural resources based on a ecosystem approach. Primary and secondary Flowways are protected under a Flowway Stewardship Area designation while additional areas with connected native vegetative cover are protected under Habitat Stewardship Area and Water Resource Stewardship Area designations. The proposed HCP is intended to synchronize the ecosystem approach used for the RLSA program with federal programs administered under the ESA.

Fostering Partnerships: The history of the RLSA, SRT, and FPPP processes has been a hallmark of open dialogue and partnering between environmental NGOs, other stakeholders and the ECPO property owners. This proposed HCP would represent the successful completion of these ongoing partnerships. Multiple endorsement letters from various stakeholders are attached.

Delivery/Completion: ECPO has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting the HCP process. Significant initial steps in the HCP process have been undertaken solely at ECPOs expense with the expressed purpose of following through the full implementation of the HCP. These past, current and future work efforts demonstrate a clear commitment by ECPO to

further the goals of panther conservation via the MSHCP. These efforts have required a significant dedication of ECPO's financial resources, collaborative energy, and time, and the current work efforts are generally on schedule. As described elsewhere, the collaboration between ECPO and the multiple environmental NGOs can produce a long-term planned future for eastern Collier County under the auspices of the ESA, a future that panther experts have characterized as furthering Florida panther conservation.







# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240



JUL 31 2012

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/AES/052145

## Memorandum

To: Regional Directors, Regions 1-8

From: Acting Director

*James O. Melius*

Subject: Fiscal Year 2012 Recovery Land Acquisition, Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance, and Land Acquisition Grants

**(Response Due: Within 60 days of Signed Memorandum)**

This memorandum is to inform you that the final selections for the Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants Program have been identified by the Washington Office. This allocates approximately \$8.5 million dollars to fund the Recovery Land Acquisition Grants program (Table 1). This memorandum also allocates over \$24 million dollars to fund the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Planning Assistance Grants (Table 2) and HCP Land Acquisition Grants programs (Table 3). Nearly \$9.5 million dollars is made available for HCP Planning Assistance grants, and nearly \$15 million dollars is made available for HCP Land Acquisition grants for the acquisition of habitat in support of approved HCPs.

A national press release announcing the award selections for the HCP Planning Assistance and HCP Land Acquisition Grant Programs, as well as Regional selections for the Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program will be issued within the next two weeks. We ask that you not make these selections public until after this national press release has been issued. At that time, Regional staff should be prepared to issue Regional press releases with additional information regarding the awards.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has provided partial funding to a number of grant proposals. This results in the need for the applicants to revise the original proposals to accommodate the reduced funding (as indicated by an asterisk in the following tables). As needed, the Regions should negotiate with the State or Territory to reach agreement on the revised goals and products. If agreement can be reached, the Regions should fund the revised proposals. Should additional FY12 funding become available, proposals receiving partial funding will be offered additional funding up to the full funding level originally requested. These proposals must include a revised project description. All other Federal requirements pertaining to grant agreements and the requirements outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP) remain in full effect.

**Recovery Land Acquisition Grants**

In the Recovery Land Acquisition Grants program, 7 Regions submitted 37 eligible proposals. Of these, full or partial funding is recommended for 14 projects.

Table 1

Project Title	Region	State	Funded Amount
Kukaiu Acquisition and Palila Habitat Restoration*	1	HI	\$1,217,114
Kahuku Coastline Protection and Management: Helping Habitat for Hawaiian Hawksbill Turtles	1	HI	\$1,214,000
Barker Tract RLA*	2	TX	\$1,242,209
Hine's Emerald Dragonfly RLA - Ridges Sanctuary	3	WI	\$345,000
Acquisition of the Hancock South Tract along the Little Cahaba River	4	AL	\$1,000,000
Acquisition of land in Cheat River Gorge*	5	WV	\$700,000
Paradise Valley: Salt Creek Tiger Beetle RLA	6	NE	\$270,000
Rowe Sanctuary RLA in Buffalo County *	6	NE	\$200,000
June Sucker Spawning and Stream Restoration in East Hobble Creek	6	UT	\$157,500
Kelsey Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition*	8	CA	\$750,000
Arrastre Canyon, Los Angeles*	8	CA	\$350,000
Shay Meadows Conservation Area Expansion*	8	CA	\$300,000
Upper Sevenmile Creek Flow Restoration Easement*	8	OR	\$650,000
Peninsular Bighorn Sheep*	8	CA	\$88,177
Total			\$8,484,000

\*Indicates partial funding awarded

**HCP Planning Assistance Grants**

In the HCP Planning Assistance Grants program, 6 Regions submitted 18 eligible proposals. Full funding is recommended for 17 projects and partial funding is recommended for one project.

Table 2

Project Title	Region	State(s)	Funded Amount
Deschutes Basin Multi-Species HCP	1	OR	\$407,000
ODOT Right-of-Way HCP	1	OR	\$127,067

Project Title	Region	State(s)	Funded Amount
Yamhill County Private Lands HCP for Upland Prairie Species Phase II	1	OR	\$292,611
South Puget Sound Prairie HCP	1	WA	\$750,000
Statewide HCP for Florida Beaches	4	FL	\$766,014
Highlands County Multi-Species HCP	4	FL	\$300,250
East Collier County Multi-Species HCP*	4	FL	\$149,949
Lower Flint River Basin HCP	4	GA	\$199,878
City of Crossville and Cumberland County HCP	4	TN	\$719,024
HCP for Indiana Bats Associated with Forest Management Activities on PA State Game Lands and PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources State Forests and State Park Lands	5	PA	\$600,000
The Bay Delta HCP/NCCP	8	CA	\$640,575
Northeast San Luis Obispo County HCP/NCCP	8	CA	\$275,000
Valley Floor (Kern) HCP	8	CA	\$428,019
Butte Regional HCP/NCCP	8	CA	\$999,999
Bakersfield Regional HCP	8	CA	\$945,000
Town of Apple Valley HCP/NCCP	8	CA	\$813,750
City of Colton HCP	8	CA	\$70,875
Interior Least Tern and Piping Plover: Inclusion in the Great Plains Wind Energy HCP	6,2	MT, ND, SD, NE, KS, CO, OK, TX, NM	\$999,989
Total Funding			\$9,485,000

\* Indicates partial funding awarded



### HCP Land Acquisition Grants

Six Regions submitted 17 eligible proposals for HCP Land Acquisition Grants funding. Three of these proposals will receive full funding and five will receive partial funding (\*).

Table 3

Project Title	Region	State(s)	Funded Amount
Bald Hill Farm & Mary's River	1	OR	\$1,259,000
Mountain View - 4-O Ranch	1	WA	\$3,700,000
La Cantera (Canyon Ranch) HCPLA*	2	TX	\$1,519,400
Karner Blue Butterfly and Kirtland's Warbler HCP Land Acquisition - Central Sands*	3	WI	\$497,600
Utah Prairie Dog HCP Land Acquisition Proposal	6	UT	\$1,000,000
Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan*	8	CA	\$4,000,000
City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan (HMP), Northwest San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan (MHCP), San Diego County, CA*	8	CA	\$2,000,000
East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan*	8	CA	\$1,000,000
Total Funding			\$14,976,000.00

\* Indicates partial funding awarded

In order to assess progress toward completion of projects receiving Recovery Land Acquisition, HCP Planning Assistance, and HCP Land Acquisition grants in previous fiscal years, the Washington Office needs information on the status of these projects. Please submit an update on the status of projects selected to receive Recovery Land Acquisition funds in FY 2002 through FY 2011 (Table 4), for projects selected to receive HCP Planning Assistance funds in FY 2001 through FY 2011 (Table 5), and for projects selected to receive HCP Land Acquisition funds in FY 2000 through FY 2011 (Table 6). Please submit an update on the status of these efforts including what portion has been spent, by what entity, and for acquisitions, what parcels have been purchased. Please submit all status information to the Endangered Species program within 60 days of the date of this memorandum.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Don Morgan, Chief, Branch of Recovery and State Grants at (703) 358-2444.

Attachments

**Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Recovery Land Acquisition Grants  
(FY 2002 – FY 2011)**

Table 4

Region	State(s)	Project Title	Funded Amount
<b>FY 2002</b>			
3	IA; WI	Northern Monkshood and Iowa Pleistocene snail multi-state RLA	\$132,000
4	TN	Leonard Tract - Duck River	\$1,167,892
5	MD	Bog turtle RLA	\$265,500
5	NY	Karner blue butterfly RLA	\$321,000
5	VA	Virginia big-eared bat / Indiana bat RLA	\$63,000
5	WV	Flat-spined 3-toothed land snail / Indiana bat RLA	\$334,327
6	NE	Salt Creek Tiger Beetle RLA	\$650,000
<b>FY 2003</b>			
3	IA	Eastern prairie fringed orchid	\$108,000
3	MI	Mitchell's satyr habitat - Grand River Fen	\$375,000
4	AR	Pondberry and red-cockaded woodpecker land acquisition	\$288,930
4	TN	Asher Farm Tract - Clinch River	\$1,685,000
5	VA	Purchase of Virginia big-eared and Indiana bat habitat	\$56,362
5	WV	Habitat Acquisition for the flat-spined three-toothed land snail	\$295,485
<b>FY 2004</b>			
1	ID	Moen Ranch property – Pahsimeroi River	\$640,000
2	OK	Ozark big-eared bat recovery	\$469,083
3	IA	Eastern prairie fringed orchid	\$254,625
3	MI	Mitchell's satyr recovery	\$416,189
5	MD	Delmarva fox squirrel – Nanticoke River Watershed	\$267,183
6	NE	Eastern Nebraska saline wetland land – Salt Creek Tiger Beetle	\$160,000
8	CA	Vernal pool species recovery, Millville Plains	\$317,716
<b>FY 2005</b>			
1	HI	Carlsmith Trust Property (Kukuau I)	\$875,000
2	OK; AR	Ozark big-eared bat and Karst Dependant Species	\$425,850
4	KY	Green River Acquisition	\$581,274
4	SC	Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve Acquisition	\$1,000,000
4	TN	Blaker Towhead Acquisition	\$211,213
5	MD	Dwarf wedge mussel habitat protection in MD	\$225,000
6	UT	White Dome Rare Plant Preserve	\$141,189
8	CA	Vernal Pool Species Recovery - Contra Costa Goldfields	\$796,101
8	CA	Arroyo Toad Recovery Land Acquisition	\$200,000
8	CA	Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve	\$500,000
8	NV	South Fork Little Humboldt/Snowstorm Mountain	\$600,000
<b>FY 2006</b>			
1	HI	Nu'u Makai Wetland Acquisition – Yee Hop South Kona	\$1,794,500
1	WA	Boistfort Valley Acquisition	\$256,157
3	MI	Mill Creek Fen Habitat Easement Acquisition and Protection for Mitchell's Satyr	\$268,625
4	AL	Acquisition of the Pate Tract, Red Hills Alabama	\$493,500

4	AR	Return of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker	\$1,000,000
4	KY	Acquisition of Tracts for Short's Goldenrod and Listed Mussels	\$550,000
5	ME	Heart of the Watershed: Protection of the Barth and Weary Properties	\$172,147
5	VA	Clinch River Project	\$228,167
5	VA	Protection of Smooth Coneflower and Roanoke Loggerhead Habitat	\$150,000
6	UT	June Sucker Habitat Acquisition & Restoration	\$276,491
8	CA	Habitat for the Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander, Larkin Valley	\$225,000
8	CA	Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard	\$800,000
8	CA	Recovery Land Acquisition Grant for the Arroyo Toad, Whitewater Canyon	\$335,000
8	CA	Arroyo Toad, Long Potrero Land Acquisition	\$575,000
<b>FY 2007</b>			
1	HI	Kilauea Coastal Preserve Acquisition	\$1,631,132
1	WA	San Juan Islands Castilleja Conservation Project	\$1,000,000
1	HI	Honouliuli Preserve Acquisition	\$627,809
1	ID	Boundary Creek Conservation Easement	\$1,471,500
1	HI	Kawa Bay Acquisition	\$1,000,000
2	TX	Morton Golden-cheeked Warbler Preserve	\$652,313
3	MO	Windy Bar Island Acquisition	\$483,504
4	KY	Acquisition of Three Tracts Fronting the Licking River for Mussel Recovery	\$673,821
4	PR	Acquisition of San Miguel Natural Reserve for Leather Back Sea Turtles	\$1,500,000
5	VA	Purchase of Madison Cave Isopod Habitat	\$401,135
6	NE	Salt Creek Tiger Beetle	\$174,000
6	UT	White Dome Nature Preserve	\$380,000
8	CA	Amargosa Vole and Amargosa Niterwort, Tecopa Hot Springs	\$121,200
8	CA	Laguna Mountain Skipper, Palomar Mountain	\$1,372,000
8	CA	Los Vaqueros Ranch Conservation Easement	\$500,000
<b>FY 2008</b>			
1	HI	Hamakua Marsh Watershed Protection	\$740,000
2	TX	Recovery Land Acquisition of Whooping Crane Wintering Habitat, Calhoun County, Texas	\$404,750
2	OK	Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Acquisition	\$186,000
2	TX	Conservation Easement for Long Ranch, Bastrop County, Texas	\$564,750
3	WI	Prairie bush clover Recovery Land Acquisition	\$88,355
3	MI	Copperbelly water snake habitat easement acquisition and protection along the Upper St. Joseph River	\$689,305
4	GA	Acquisition of the Lewis Property -- Hairy Rattleweed	\$500,000
4	TN	Pearson Cave Acquisition -- gray and Indiana bats	\$225,000
4	TN	Acquisition of Virgin Falls -- Virginia spiraea	\$1,538,450
4	PR	Acquisition of San Miguel Natural Reserve (Phase II) -- leather back sea turtles	\$1,500,000
5	VA	Purchase of Lee County Cave isopod habitat, Gallohan-Surgener Cave System	\$154,000
5	VA	Purchase of red-cockaded woodpecker habitat, Big Woods area	\$550,000
6	UT	White Dome Nature Preserve	\$400,000
6	NE	Land Acquisition for Salt Creek Tiger Beetle, Lincoln, NE	\$385,911
8	CA	Recovery Land Acquisition Grant for the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep	\$1,500,000
8	CA	Recovery Land Acquisition for California Red-legged Frog, Big Gun Site,	\$490,350

		Sierra Nevada	
8	CA	Recovery Land Acquisition Grant for Jacumba-Eade	\$600,000
8	CA	Recovery Land Acquisition for San Diego Mountain Ranch	\$1,000,000
8	CA	Recovery Land Acquisition Grant for the Hunt Property	\$671,250
<b>FY 2009</b>			
1	OR	Upper and Lower Table Rocks	\$507,000
1	OR	Cardwell Hill Conservation Easements	\$256,820
1	OR	Big Creek Property	\$1,007,000
1	HI	Kainalu Forest Watershed	\$1,500,000
1	WA	San Juan Islands Castilleja Conservation	\$747,846
2	AZ	Sonoita Creek Ranch Acquisition	\$1,000,000
2	TX	Creating the Ranchito-Laguna Atascosa Corridor for Ocelots and other Wildlife in South Texas	\$840,593
2	OK	An Ecoregion Approach for Recovery and Protection of Karst Dependent Federally Listed Species	\$569,790
3	OH, MI	Copperbelly Water Snake Habitat Acquisition	\$488,200
3	MO	Acquisition of Marquette Island an important resource for Pallid Sturgeon and Interior Least Tern Recovery on the Middle Mississippi River, Cape Girardeau	\$662,825
4	GA	Acquisition of the Dawson Forest/Forestar Tract	\$1,000,000
4	AR	An ecoregion approach for recovery and protection of karst dependent federally listed species	\$403,096
4	KY	Acquisition of Robinson Tracts, Licking River	\$1,097,000
4	LA	Acquisition of the Crosby Property	\$500,000
5	VT	Establishment of Raven Ridge Preserve – Indiana Bat	\$500,000
5	NJ	Bog Turtle Recovery/Armstrong Bog	\$500,000
5	VT	Establishment of a new wildlife management area protecting the Athens Dome Wetland Complex – Northeaster bulrush	\$300,000
6	UT	White Dome Nature Preserve	\$910,500
8	CA	Mojave River Riparian Area	\$2,266,869
8	CA	San Diego River - Hanlon-Walker	\$1,000,000
8	CA	Tecopa Land Acquisition	\$64,163
<b>FY 2010</b>			
1	HI	Kainalu Forest Watershed, Phase II	\$1,500,000
1	WA	Golden Paintbrush at Heritage Preserve	\$1,258,500
2	AZ	Triangle Bar Ranch Acquisition	\$1,025,000
2	TX	Land Acquisition of Important Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo Nesting Habitat	\$800,000
2	TX	Land Acquisition of Important Whooping Crane Wintering Habitat in Holiday Beach	\$260,250
3	IA	Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	\$239,500
3	WI	Prairie Bush Clover - Empire Prairies State Natural Area	\$405,523
3	WI	Northern Wild Monkshood - Chase Creek Algific Talus Slope State Natural Area	\$180,000
3	WI	Fassett's Locoweed - Plainfield Tunnel Channel Lakes State Natural Area	\$165,500
4	AR	Arkansas land acquisitions for the recovery of Geocarpon minimum	\$511,650
4	GA	Canoochee River corridor habitat conservation project: Warnell Easement Acquisition project	\$1,437,494

4	PR	San Miquel Natural Reserve – Phase III	\$1,500,000
5	NJ	Bog turtle recovery in Warren County	\$300,000
5	VA	Protection of Sweet Springs Natural Area Preserve	\$123,900
5	WV	Acquisition of land in Cheat River Gorge to benefit the flat-spined three-toothed land snail and Indiana bat	\$816,595
6	MT	Saypo Cattle Ranch Easement, Rocky Mountain Front	\$392,007
6	ND	Maurer/Taylor Land Acquisition	\$250,000
6	NE	Land Acquisition for Habitat Protection of the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle in Lancaster County	\$275,000
6	UT	June Sucker Spawning and Stream Restoration in East Hobble Creek	\$150,000
8	CA	Southwestern willow flycatcher, Lower Santa Clara River, Ventura County	\$1,000,000
8	CA	Kimball Valley - Arroyo Toad	\$500,000
8	CA	Dry Creek Ranch-East Conservation Easement Acquisition Project	\$500,000
8	NV	Black Rock Station Acquisition	\$420,000
8	NV	Revert Spring Acquisition	\$968,922
<b>FY 2011</b>			
1	OR	Willamette Valley	\$500,000
1	WA	Northern Blue Mountains Bull Trout Recovery	\$712,650
1	HI	East Maui Watershed Conservation Easement	\$391,000
1	OR	Yamhill Oaks- Pugh Property	\$267,000
2	AZ	Traingle Bar Phase II	\$1,000,000
2	TX	LPC Yoakum Dunes	\$730,644
3	MO	Recovery & Protection of Karst-Dependent Species in Missouri	\$534,750
3	WI	Prairie Bush Clover Recovery: Smith Drumlin	\$138,000
3	WI	Prairie Bush Clover Recovery: Borah Creek	\$378,000
4	AR	Longview Saline	\$1,509,012
4	FL	Chapman's Rhododendron RLA in Gulf County	\$1,218,750
4	GA	Acquisition of the Howell Tract	\$656,287
4	FL	Lake Wales Ridge: Chillemmi Parcel	\$150,260
4	NC	Rough-leaved Loosestrife Land Acquisition	\$142,900
5	MD	Chesapeake Bay Puritan Tiger Beetle	\$2,426,055
6	CO	Turtle Ranch Conservation Easement	\$469,540
6	NE	Land Acquisition for Salt Creek Tiger Beetle	\$135,000
8	CA	Zayante Sandhills, Santa Cruz County	\$750,000
8	CA	Ocean Meadows/ Deveraux Slough	\$500,000
8	CA	Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander	\$925,000
8	CA	Peninsular Bighorn Sheep	\$500,000

### HCP Planning Assistance Allocations (FY 2001 – FY 2011)

Table 5

Region	State(s)	Project Title	Funded Amount
<b>FY 2001</b>			
4	FL	Sarasota County-Wide Florida Scrub-Jay HCP Development	\$137,545
<b>FY 2002</b>			
6	CO	Colorado DNR Boulder and Douglas County HCPs	\$700,000
<b>FY 2003</b>			
1	ID	Greater Priest Lake Multi Species	\$563,000
2	AZ	Town of Marana Habitat Conservation Plan	\$134,990
2	TX	Williamson County Regional HCP	\$200,000
<b>FY 2004</b>			
1	WA	Foster Creek HCP for Douglas County	\$518,605
2	TX	Williamson County Regional HCP	\$1,005,000
5	MD	HCP for Delmarva Fox Squirrel and Timber	\$128,625
6	MT	Montana DNR and Conservation Forested Trust Land HCP	\$589,500
<b>FY 2005</b>			
1	OR	Benton County HCP	\$574,583
3	IL	Hine's Emerald Dragonfly on public and private land in Illinois HCP	\$370,163
3	IN; MI	Multi-state Mitchell's satyr HCP	\$880,000
4	AR	The Big Woods of Arkansas	\$250,250
6	UT	Development of a New Iron County HCP	\$150,000
8	CA	MHCP, City of Encinitas Open Space Management Program	\$27,500
8	CA	Santa Clara Valley HCP-NCCP	\$487,000
8	CA	Mendocino Redwood Company HCP-NCCP	\$137,000
8	CA	County of San Diego, East County MSCP	\$184,000
8	CA	Placer County, Phase 1, HCP-NCCP	\$193,000
8	CA	MHCP, City of San Marcos Sub area Plan	\$154,000
8	CA	Yolo County HCP-NCCP	\$605,000
8	CA	Solano County HCP-NCCP	\$487,000
<b>FY 2006</b>			
1	WA	Washington Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Resources HCP	\$598,200
2	TX	Comal County Regional HCP	\$612,852
2	AZ	Multi-species HCP for the city of Tucson	\$252,829
4	AR	The Big Woods of Arkansas	\$250,140
4	FL	Development of a HCP for Shoreline Protection on Walton County Beaches	\$446,000
4	GA	Lower Flint River Basin Habitat Conservation Planning	\$130,183
6	MT	Montana Division of Natural Resources Forested Trust Land HCP	\$574,334
6	NE	Salt Creek Tiger Beetle and Eastern Saline Wetlands HCP	\$500,000
6	UT	Development of a New Iron County HCP	\$150,000
8	CA	South Sacramento County HCP	\$240,975
8	CA	East Bay Regional Parks District HCP/NCCP	\$297,500
8	CA	Yuba & Sutter Counties HCP/NCCP	\$450,000
8	CA	Butte County HCP/NCCP	\$500,990
8	CA	Central Valley/Bay Delta HCP/NCCP	\$238,000



<b>FY 2007</b>			
1	HI	Coordination and Planning of a Regional Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan on Kaua'i, Hawai'i	\$367,718
1	OR	Benton County Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan	\$333,000
1	WA	Walla Walla Basin Bi-State HCP	\$547,458
2	AZ	Monitoring Plan and Protocol for the Pima County Multi-Species Conservation Plan	\$274,505
3	IN	HCP for the Indiana Bat on Indiana State Forest Lands	\$375,000
4	AR	The Big Woods of Arkansas - Year 3	\$231,250
4	FL	Development of a Statewide HCP for Florida Beaches	\$257,247
4	FL	Development of an HCP for Escambia County Beaches	\$492,000
4	TN/KY	Development of Habitat Conservation Plans for Cumberlands Region, TN and KY	\$451,505
6	NE	Salt Creek Tiger Beetle and Eastern Saline Wetlands HCP	\$150,000
8	CA	Butte County HCP/NCCP	\$319,200
8	CA	El Dorado County Integrated Natural Resources Conservation Plan	\$604,831
8	CA	Santa Clara County HCP/NCCP	\$222,000
8	CA	Yolo County HCP/NCCP	\$349,785
<b>FY 2008</b>			
4	KY, TN	Development of Habitat Conservation Plans for Cumberlands Region, TN and KY	\$129,150
8	CA	Yuba Sutter Counties, California, Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan	\$360,696
8	CA	San Luis Obispo Northeast County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan	\$500,000
8	CA	Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan	\$364,800
8	CA	Fresno County, California Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan	\$199,800
8	CA	Butte Regional Habitat/Natural Community Conservation Plan	\$378,600
6	UT	Garfield County HCP Development	\$58,080
1	WA	WDFW Wildlife Areas HCP	\$666,900
4	GA	Development of a HCP for Imperiled Aquatic Species in the Etowah River Basin: Funding for Transition to Implementation	\$217,772
1	WA	WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval HCP	\$680,400
4	FL	Development of a HCP for the City of Cape Coral, FL	\$151,450
8	CA	Bay Delta Conservation Plan Public Involvement and Outreach Program	\$300,000
3,4,5	Multiple	Development of a Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan for NiSource Natural Gas Transmission Facilities in Cooperation with NiSource Gas Transmission and Storage	\$3,007,270
4	FL	Development of a Statewide HCP for Florida Beaches	\$479,518
4	AR	The Big Woods of Arkansas	\$225,500
2	TX	Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer HCP Completion Assistance	\$105,000
1	OR	Upper Deschutes HCP	\$306,000
4	FL	Development of a HCP for Scrub Habitats in Highlands County, FL	\$277,247
4	FL	Development of a HCP for Charlotte County, FL	\$226,390
<b>FY 2009</b>			

1	OR	Conservation Planning for Oregon Highway Right-of-ways: Development of a State-wide Multi-species HCP	\$477,963
1	OR	Yamhill County, Oregon Multi-species HCP	\$391,000
1	WA	Washington Wildlife Areas HCP	\$741,034
1	HI	Coordination and Planning of the Kauai Seabird HCP	\$789,892
2	TX	Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program HCP	\$1,063,125
2	TX	Southern Edwards Plateau HCP	\$1,340,691
2/6	Multiple	Development of a multi-state Whooping Crane and Lesser Prairie-Chicken HCP for Wind Development	\$1,080,990
4	TN	Development of HCPs for Cumberlands Region of TN	\$855,584
4	FL	Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches	\$753,968
6	CO	San Luis Valley Habitat Conservation Plan – Phase 4	\$120,000
8	CA	Butte Regional Habitat/Natural Community Conservation Plan	\$715,451
8	CA	City of San Diego Vernal Pool Species HCP	\$615,000
8	CA	Yolo County HCP/NCCP	\$634,988
<b>FY 2010</b>			
1	HI	Completion of the North Kona Game Mammal HCP	\$183,000
1	OR	Upper Deschutes Basin Multi-Species HCP	\$407,400
1	WA	Washington State Hydraulic Project HCP	\$753,553
1	WA	Washington DNR Aquatic Lands, Phase IV	\$330,000
1	WA	Washington State Wildlife Areas HCP	\$481,637
2	AZ	Development of a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for the City of Tucson	\$299,795
3	IN, IA, MI, MO, OH	Development of a multi-species HCP for wind energy development in the Midwest	\$3,362,364
4	FL	Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches	\$947,424
4	FL	Regional Habitat Conservation Plan for Indian River and St. Lucie Co.	\$286,298
4	FL	Scrub Habitats in Lake County	\$153,820
4	TN	Development of HCPs for Cumberlands Region	\$716,630
5	ME	State of Maine Water and Forest Programmatic Habitat Conservation Plan-Phase I	\$173,250
6	NE	Habitat Conservation Plan for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle and Eastern Saline Wetlands	\$180,000
8	CA	Bay-Delta Conservation Plan	\$673,192
8	CA	South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan	\$489,646
8	CA	Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan, Alameda County	\$561,991
<b>FY 2011</b>			
1	WA	South Puget Sound Prairie HCP	\$450,000
1	HI	Kaua'i Seabird Multi-Species HCP	\$259,281
1	HI	Baseline Surveys for Two Wind Power HCPs in the State of Hawaii	\$900,000
1	OR	Deschutes Basin Multi-Species HCP	\$410,000
2	TX	Developing a GCP for the Golden-Cheeked Warbler and Black-Capped Vireo in Central Texas	\$388,887
4	FL	Statewide HCP for Florida Beaches	\$900,484
4	FL	Development of a Multi-Species HCP in Polk County	\$244,653



4	FL	Scrub HCP for Charlotte County, Florida	\$89,084
4	FL	Gulf County Florida Beaches HCP	\$312,497
4	TN	Development of HCPs for the Cumberland Region	\$978,439
8	CA	Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Habitat Conservation Plan	\$974,250
8	CA	South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan	\$994,500
8	CA	Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDGP) Public Involvement and Outreach	\$366,000
8	CA	Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Measure M2 NCCP/HCP	\$732,000
8	CA	Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP)	\$537,195
8	CA	Yuba and Sutter Counties HCP/NCCP	\$807,390
8	CA	Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan NCCP/HCP	\$1,000,000
8	CA	Metropolitan Bakersfield (California) Habitat Conservation Plan (MBHCP)	\$427,000

### HCP Land Acquisition Allocations (FY 2000 – FY 2011)

Table 6

Region	State(s)	Project Title	Funded Amount
<b>FY 2000</b>			
2	TX	Balcones Canyonlands	\$4,140,000
3	WI	Wisconsin Statewide	\$60,000
8	CA	Natomas Basin	\$905,000
<b>FY 2001</b>			
1	WA	Washington DNR-Okanogan/Jefferson/Clallam	\$5,675,000
2	TX	Balcones Canyonlands	\$14,362,500
3	WI	Wisconsin Statewide	\$1,470,000
8	CA	AD 161 MSHCP	\$10,000,000
8	CA	Natomas Basin	\$4,023,800
8	CA	San Bruno Mountain	\$509,200
<b>FY 2002</b>			
2	TX	City of Austin /Barton Springs Pool HCP (Storm Ranch Cons.Easement)	\$1,044,550
2	TX	Balcones Canyonlands	\$10,000,000
8	CA	Fieldstone HCP, County Core	\$2,000,000
<b>FY 2003</b>			
2	TX	Balcones Canyonlands	\$4,993,794
8	CA	San Diego MSCP – Sloan Canyon	\$4,875,000
<b>FY 2004</b>			
2	TX	Balcones Canyonlands	\$3,375,000
2	TX	Storm Ranch, Texas Conservation Easement	\$1,766,004
8	CA	Fieldstone NCCP/HCP	\$1,512,900
<b>FY 2005</b>			
1	WA	Cedar River Watershed	\$1,617,138
1	WA	Squire Creek Forest	\$683,300
1	WA	Hoh River Conservation Corridor (Phase 3B)	\$258,500
2	TX	Balcones Canyonlands	\$6,890,000
6	UT	Iron County HCPLA for Utah Prairie Dogs	\$600,000
6	UT	Washington County Desert Tortoise	\$10,000,000
8	CA	Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan	\$5,000,000

8	CA	Orange County Central/Coastal	\$3,120,741
8	CA	City of Rancho Palos Verdes Ocean Trails HCP LA	\$2,000,000
<b>FY 2006</b>			
1	WA	Washington DNR HCP - Hoh River Phase IV	\$6,371,250
1	WA	Ashford Spotted Owl Project-Phase II	\$5,673,196
1	WA	Little White Salmon Corridor Project-Phase II	\$4,913,683
1	WA	Washington DNR HCP - Barr Creek Forest Protection	\$447,600
1	WA	Swamp Lake/Amabilis Mountain II (Plum Creek Central Cascades HCP)	\$2,350,470
1	WA	Hyak-Gold Creek Corridor- Phase II (Plum Creek Central Cascades HCP)	\$3,940,000
1	WA	Methow Watershed Phase 4 (Plum Creek Central Cascade HCP)	\$4,380,120
2	TX	Cibolo Canyonlands Golden-cheeked Warbler Land Acquisition	\$3,500,000
3	MI	Point Betsie Piping Plover HCP	\$550,823
6	MT	Native Fish HCP - Blackfoot Easement Project	\$2,699,000
8	CA	Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard HCP	\$3,108,000
8	CA	San Joaquin Multi-species HCP	\$6,531,054
8	CA	Western Riverside County MSHCP	\$12,000,000
<b>FY 2007</b>			
1	WA	Plum Creek HCP - I-90 Wildlife Corridor, Phase III - Keechelus Ridge	\$4,191,500
2	TX	Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, Purcell Tract	\$5,742,500
3	WI	Karner Blue Butterfly HCP Land Acquisition Wisconsin	\$192,000
4	GA	Lands Adjacent to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge	\$1,500,000
6	MT	Native Fish HCP: Blackfoot Easement Project	\$3,887,375
8	CA	Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard HCP	\$1,542,000
8	CA	San Joaquin Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan	\$7,000,000
8	CA	San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Plan	\$23,103,592
<b>FY 2008</b>			
1	WA	Okanogan-Similkameen, Phase I	\$5,000,000
1	WA	Heart of the Cascades, Phase I	\$3,600,000
1	WA	Methow Watershed, Phase 5	\$1,487,781
2	TX	Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Land Acquisition	\$5,250,000
3	OH	East Point, South Bass Island, Ohio to Complete Recovery of the Threatened Lake Erie Watersnake	\$1,835,000
4	GA	A Proposal to Acquire 8,430 Acres of Mature Pine Habitat in Decatur County, Georgia	\$2,000,000
6	MT	Blackfoot River Easement Project	\$6,515,319
8	CA	City of San Diego MSCP - East Elliott and Otay Mesa Regions	\$4,918,000
8	CA	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan: Mount Diablo Foothills	\$6,000,000
8	CA	Willow Canyon Acquisition for the Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander in Aptos	\$1,695,122
<b>FY 2009</b>			
1	WA	I-90 Wildlife Corridor, Phase IV	\$6,000,000
1	WA	Methow Watershed, Phase 6	\$2,000,000
1	WA	Okanogan-Similkameen Watershed, Phase 2	\$4,000,000
1	WA	Ashford Project, Phase III: Emmons, Ward, Hancock A, Quigley, and Hancock B Parcels	\$3,557,219
3	WI	Karner blue butterfly HCP Land Acquisition - Quincy Bluff and Wetlands	\$1,533,000
4	AL	Alabama Red Hills Salamanders	\$4,140,000

6	MT	Clearwater Lands Project	\$6,000,000
8	CA	City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan, Northwest San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan, San Diego County, CA	\$6,000,000
8	CA	Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan	\$6,000,000
8	CA	Trump National Golf Club Habitat Conservation Plan – Ocean Trails Habitat Conservation Plan	\$1,500,000
8	CA	County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program	\$6,000,000
8	CA	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Upper Marsh Creek Watershed	\$2,500,000
<b>FY 2010</b>			
1	WA	Methow Watershed, Phase 7	\$4,500,000
1	WA	Okanogan-Similkameen Watershed, Phase 3	\$1,500,000
1	WA	Mt. St. Helen's Forest	\$6,000,000
1	WA	Mt. Si Inholding	\$1,200,000
1	WA	Puyallup River Levee Setback	\$271,700
2	TX	Balcones Canyonlands – Spezia Tract	\$1,330,243
3	WI	Karner blue butterfly HCPLA - Quincy Bluffs and Wetlands SNA and Karner Blue Meadow SNA	\$452,000
4	FL	Flamingo Waterway Scrub Parcel	\$1,687,531
6	MT	Clearwater Lands Project	\$6,000,000
8	CA	City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan (HMP), Northwest San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan (MHCP), San Diego County	\$6,000,000
8	CA	San Diego Multi Species Conservation Program	\$6,000,000
8	CA	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan: Byron to Black Diamond Conservation Corridor	\$6,000,000
<b>FY 2011</b>			
1	WA	Methow Watershed Phase VIII	\$3,500,000
2	TX	Cobb Cavern Land Acquisition	\$1,130,625
3	WI	Karner Blue Butterfly Land Acquisition	\$360,000
4	FL	Perdido Key Beach Mouse Conservation	\$2,967,022
4	FL	Summer Haven & Porpoise Point Parcels	\$210,017
6	MT	Stimson Forestlands Conservation Project	\$4,000,000
8	CA	Coachella Valley MSHCP	\$6,000,000
8	CA	San Diego County MSHCP	\$6,000,000
8	CA	East Contra Costa HCP/NCCP	\$4,463,936