



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge *c/o*  
Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge  
4055 Wildlife Way  
Vero Beach, Florida 32963



May 18, 2012

Dear Interested Landowner,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is pleased to announce that Congress has approved funding for acquisition of properties within Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area for fiscal year 2012 in the amount of \$1.5 million. An additional \$3.0 million has been requested by the Service for this project in the President's 2013 budget request.

The final planning documents for this project estimated \$450,000,000 in funding to fully complete land acquisition for this project. The current acquisition funds provide the Service an opportunity to identify landowner interests and refine land acquisition prioritization protocols in anticipation of additional funding in future years. The Service is inviting landowners to submit letters of interest to participate in this project. The Service will only negotiate with and acquire interests in land from willing landowners.

Our intention is to protect and conserve wildlife habitat, while at the same time enabling landowners to sustain the ranching and agricultural heritage of the rural working landscape in Central Florida for current and future generations. Initial land acquisition priorities for the Service include the need to establish an office location within the project area. Staff presence in the project area will further partnership coordination and landowner contacts to conserve lands for species with critical needs such as the Florida grasshopper sparrow, Florida scrub jay, and Everglades snail kite.

To help you determine whether or not to participate in this conservation program, we encourage you to: 1) fully review the information contained in this letter and the attached letter of interest, and 2) participate in optional landowner meetings that the Service will host later this month. If you are interested in working with the Service to sell conservation easements or fee simple title, please complete the attached letter of interest.

When filling out the attached letter of interest, please be as thorough as possible. There is no requirement to provide additional information. However, supplemental information will be considered during any evaluation process, so any information you provide will be helpful. Again, the Service's land acquisition program is strictly voluntary and the Service will only work to acquire land from willing landowners.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the refuge staff at (772) 581-5557, or [evergladesheadwaters@fws.gov](mailto:evergladesheadwaters@fws.gov).

The Service will hold a series informational meetings for interested landowners at the following times and locations. The purpose of these will be to answer any questions that may arise regarding the project as you complete the letter of interest.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <u>May 30</u><br>10am-12pm<br>Florida Cattleman's Association<br>800 Shakerag Road<br>Kissimmee, FL | <u>May 30</u><br>4pm-6pm<br>Kenansville Community Center<br>1178 County Road 523 (Canoe<br>Creek Road)<br>Kenansville, FL 34739 | <u>May 31</u><br>6pm-8pm<br>Bassinger Community Center<br>Corner of Rt 98 and Mico Bluff<br>Road<br>Bassinger, FL |
|---|---|---|

Again, thank you for your interest in this project. Please send completed packages to Charlie Pelizza at:

Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge *c/o*  
Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge  
4055 Wildlife Way  
Vero Beach, Florida 32963

Sincerely,  
  
Charlie Pelizza  
Refuge Complex Manager

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Office Use Only          |
| # - - 201 -              |
| Fee Easement Both Either |
| Date received:           |

**Letter of Interest**  
**EVERGLADES HEADWATERS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
**and**  
**CONSERVATION AREA**  
**for**  
**Fee Title Acquisition or Conservation Easement Acquisition**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ranch, Farm, or Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ranch, Farm, or Property Address or Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Description (Township, Range, Section):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OR

Parcel ID #( 's), Book #, Page # (from the County Appraisers website):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Landowner Interest: Fee Sale \_\_\_ Conservation Easement \_\_\_ Fee or Easement \_\_\_

Approximate Acres (total): \_\_\_\_\_

Willing to consider phased acquisition: *Yes or No* (circle one)

Willing to consider donation or partial donation: *Yes or No* (circle one)

May we contact you to discuss your interest and conduct a site visit: *Yes or No* (circle one)

Description of Interest: Please provide a description of: your interest; property boundaries and acreage; ability to complete project over time; and any other comments you wish to offer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting Documentation and Maps: Please provide any additional documents, wildlife surveys, maps, photos, or other items that you feel may assist in evaluating this letter of interest. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Instructions for Completing Letter of Interest

Please be as complete as possible in your submission of paperwork. The following are specific instructions for the various items to be completed. This form is also available on-line at: [www.fws.gov/evergladesheadwaters](http://www.fws.gov/evergladesheadwaters), or can be submitted to: Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge, c/o Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, 4055 Wildlife Way, Vero Beach, Florida 32963. Letters of interest will be accepted on a rolling basis, but will need to be received **no later than June 8, 2012** in order to be considered for 2012 funding. Letter of interest received after these dates will be processed annually as additional funding becomes available. You can also find us on facebook.

Name: *landowner name(s)*

County: *county where property is located*

Date: *date letter of interest is completed/ submitted*

Ranch, Farm, or Property Name: (optional) *reference for property: ranch name, corporate name, etc...*

Mailing Address: *address you wish to receive correspondence*

Ranch, Farm, or Property Address or Location: *the address or physical location of the property (e.g. xxxx Canoe Creek Road, Keenansville, FL; xxx miles west of Kissimmee River on Rt. 60, north side of road)*

Home Phone: *self-explanatory*

Cell Phone: *self-explanatory*

Fax Number: *self-explanatory*

Email Address: *self-explanatory*

Legal Description (Township, Range, Section): *please provide for all parcels being considered*  
*or*

Parcel ID #(s), Book #, Page # (from the County Appraisers website): *please provide for all parcels being considered*

Landowner Interest: *please check if you are interested in fee, easement, both, or either.*

Approximate Acres (total): *estimate the acreage that you are asking to be considered for either fee or easement acquisition*

Willing to consider phased acquisition: *Is landowner willing to accept partial acquisitions over time?*

Willing to consider donation or partial donation: *Is landowner considering donation of land or interest in land, in part or in whole?*

May we contact you to discuss your interest and conduct a site visit: *Is landowner agreeable to continued discussion and hosting a site visit?*

Proposal Description: *please provide a brief description of the property, the conservation values you would like us to consider in our evaluation, and any other items of interest related to the property*

Supporting Documentation and Maps: *we will gladly accept any and all documents, biological surveys, past project proposals (e.g. Florida Forever), etc... that will support your letter of interest. A map(s), (USGS Topo Quad, Google Earth) delineating the overall property boundary, as well as the boundary identified in this letter of interest is recommended. Site specific farm or ranch maps, soil survey maps or copies of aerial photographs are also helpful.*