

# Partners for Fish and Wildlife

## Florida



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS

### Photos (top to bottom)

*Removing exotic vegetation.*

*Improving gopher tortoise habitat.*

*Two years later, natural regrowth of planted species.*

### Opportunities on Private Lands

- Habitat restoration.
- Wetland and associated uplands.
- Florida scrub.
- Longleaf pine.

### Technical Assistance

- Wetlands Reserve Program.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- Farm Service Agency Conservation Easements.
- Conservation Reserve Program.
- Other Farm Bill Conservation Programs.

### Partnerships

- Private landowners.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
- Non-governmental organizations.

### Habitat Improvement (1994-2008)

Approximately 43,028 acres on 231 sites.

### Questions and Answers

*What is Partners for Fish & Wildlife?*

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program restores, improves, and protects fish and wildlife habitat on private lands through alliances between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other organizations, and individuals, while leaving the land in private ownership.

### Who are the Partners?

Anyone can be a partner: farmers, ranchers, city dwellers, local agencies, private organizations, corporations, government agencies, educational institutions and anyone interested in the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.

### Why is Partners for Fish & Wildlife important to you?

The future of the nation's fish and wildlife depends on the private landowner.

Over two-thirds of our nation's land is privately owned and contains some of the most important fish and wildlife habitat in the United States. The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program can restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat and contribute to the health of the land and the quality of life of the people living on it.

Three-quarters of the wetlands remaining in the United States are privately owned. Wetlands are vital to both wildlife and people. Millions of birds, mammals, and other animals depend on wetlands for food, spawning, and nursery areas. Nearly one-third of America's endangered and threatened plants and animals need wetlands for survival.

Wetlands also benefit people by providing natural flood water storage, recreational opportunities, recharging ground water supplies, filtering pollutants, and providing irrigation water.

The key is partnerships! Working together, teaming up to meet local needs, address issues, and take advantage of local opportunities.

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### *What can Partners for Fish & Wildlife do for you?*

#### **Technical Assistance**

If you need help solving a land management problem, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can provide assistance, or help facilitate assistance through other agencies, on a variety of issues including:

- Wetland restoration and protection.
- Nest structures or nesting islands.
- Food and shelter for fish and wildlife.
- Soil and water quality improvement.
- Pesticide use reduction.
- Native plant restoration.
- Moist-soil management.

If your property contains damaged habitat that can be restored for wildlife; or, if you want to manage a portion of your property for wildlife, but don't know where to begin, we may be able to work with you to develop and implement a plan that meets your needs. On the ground, we can provide certain structures, help move dirt, establish bottomland hardwood trees and other vegetation, and much more.

Technical assistance is also available to landowners through U.S. Department of Agriculture programs and various programs available through the state fish and wildlife agencies and certain conservation organizations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will assist you in recognizing opportunities within these programs.

### *How do I become a Partner?*

Individual landowners can become involved by contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A biologist will contact you to discuss your needs, the opportunities available, and assist you as possible. If your project meets certain criteria, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may share or pay certain costs.

If we can't help you, we will try to find someone who can.