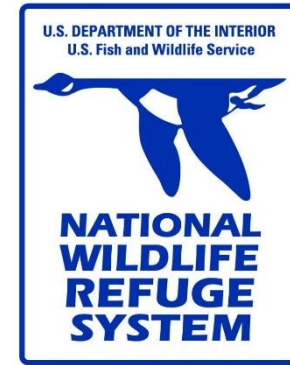




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USFWS Mission

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ***works with others*** to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



Facilitating Partnerships



- Our mission is ***to achieve voluntary habitat conservation by providing technical and financial assistance, in collaboration with partners, for the benefit of Federal trust species.***
- Partners program - <https://www.fws.gov/partners/>
 - custom-designed to meet private landowners' needs
- Coastal Program - <https://www.fws.gov/coastal/>
 - ability to work on public and private lands and with a diversity of partners



Coastal Program

- We depend on
 - the intimate knowledge of the natural resource issues and conservation challenges in local communities
 - development of long-term partnerships
- We focus on
 - landscape-scale conservation planning
 - on-the-ground coastal habitat conservation
 - benefits to federal trust and other priority species, primarily threatened and endangered species

It's all Coastal, from...

...the Mountains to the Ocean

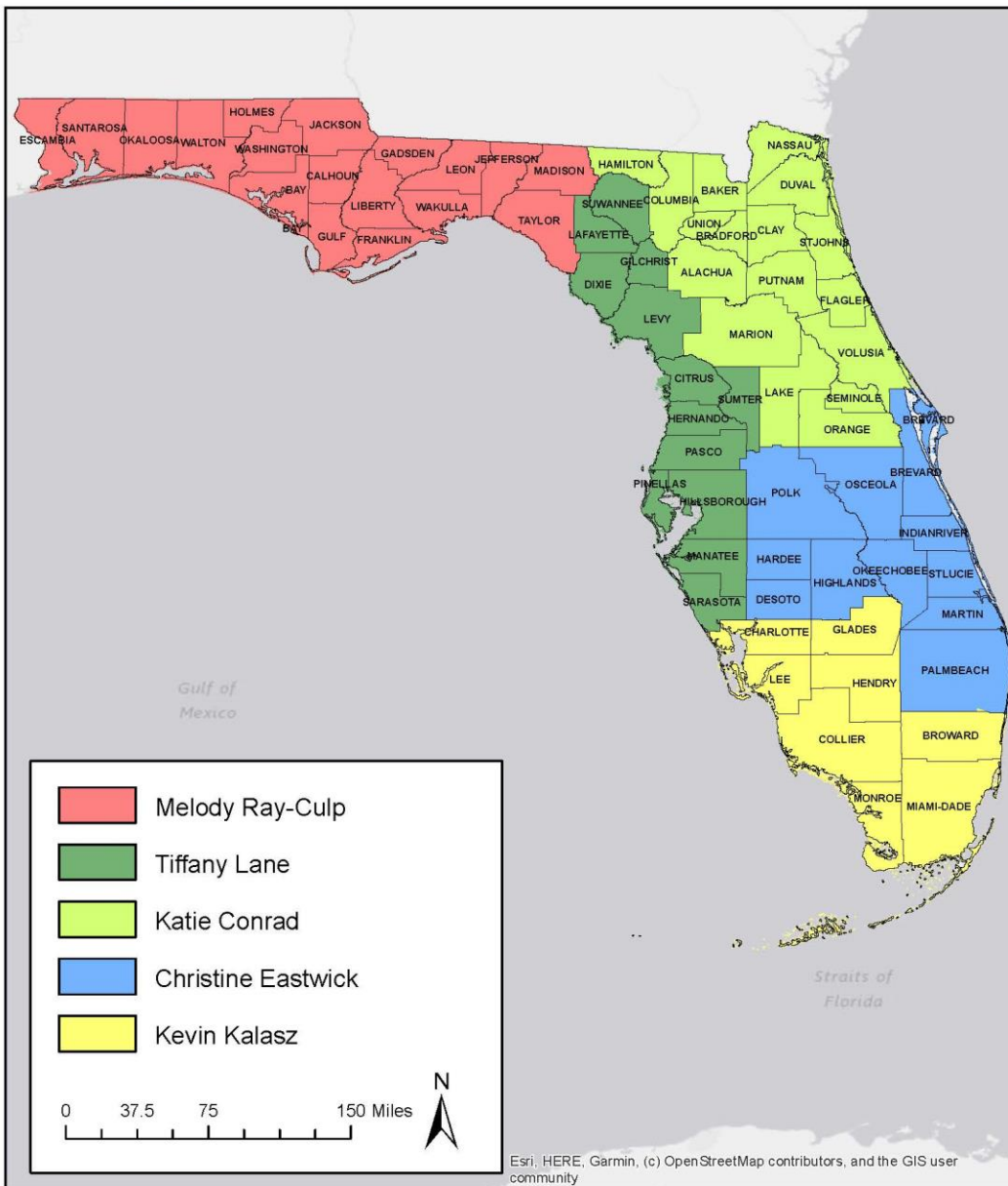
Process

- Work with local CP coordinator
- Develop project proposals (2 pages!)
- Submit → January
- Awarded → June
- Funds → October
- \$10,000 – \$70,000



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Coastal Program Coordinator Boundaries



Project Rankings

- Creating coastal ecosystems that are resilient and adaptive to climate change impacts.
- Using science-based conservation design at a landscape scale that supports habitat connectivity and ecological integrity.
- Benefitting the conservation and recovery of federal trust species and other priority species.
- Building conservation partnerships that leverage resources and promote community stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.



Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges

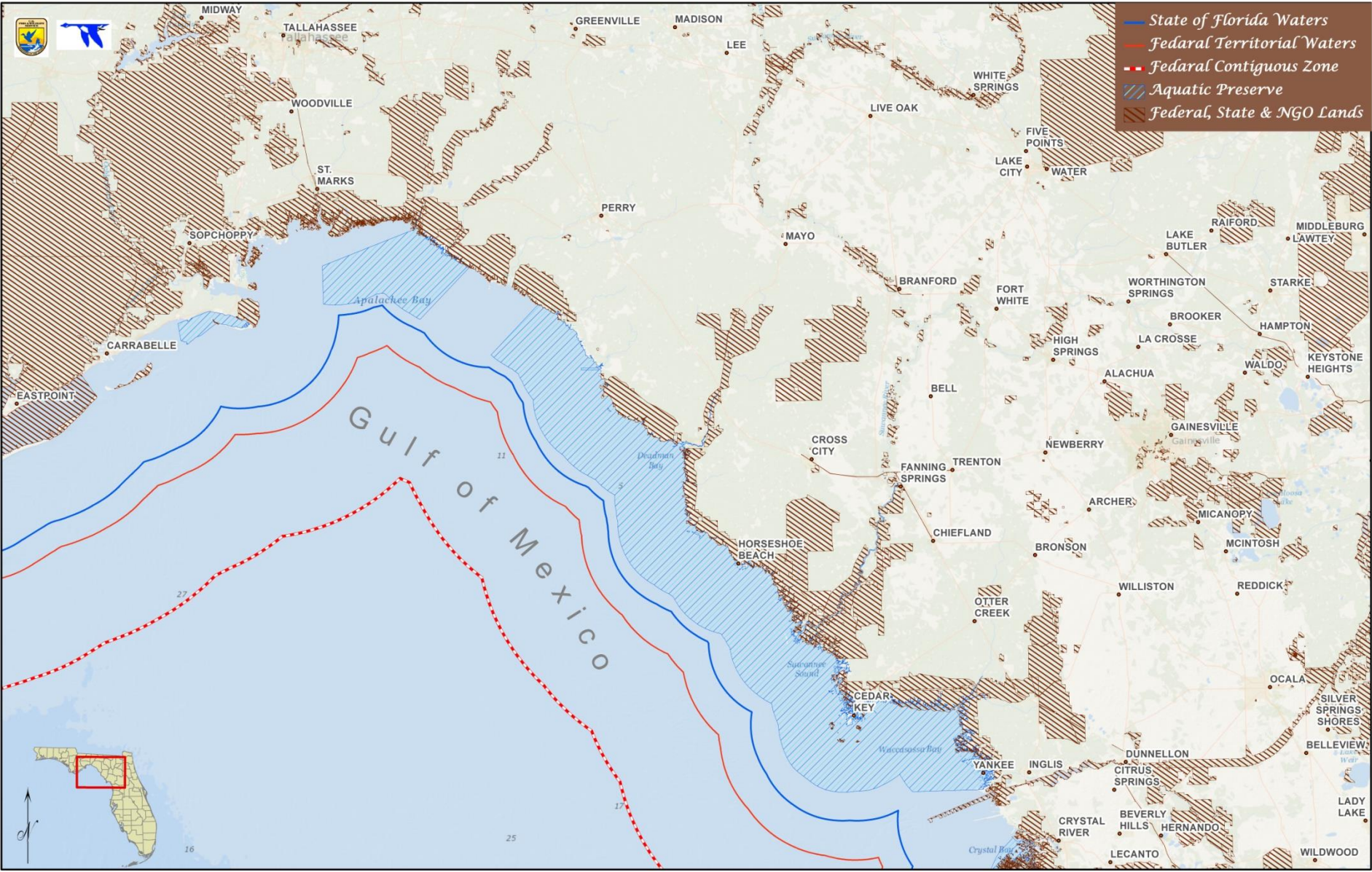
**A Community – based Approach to
Landscape Conservation Partnerships**



Landscape conversion: forests to fields; dark green to lighter colors.

UF







Wakulla

Taylor

Franklin

Lafayette

Jefferson

Dixie

Levy

Citrus

Hernando

Google earth

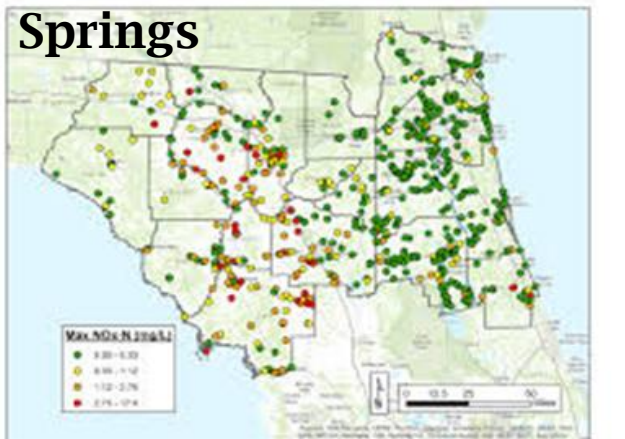
St. Vincent Island

Suwannee River

Cedar Key

Florida's Big Bend Region

Springs



© 2016 Google
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Refuge Priorities:

Develop a conservation partnership network to support and sustains *natural resource-based economies and local cultural heritage*.

Work with private partners and communities to conserve working lands and waters, and ecosystem services and biodiversity, for present and future generations.

Axioms:

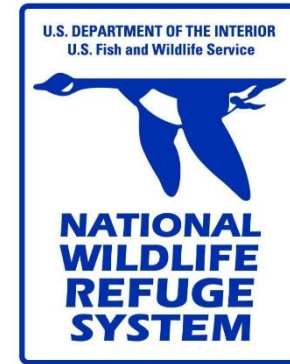
- The Refuges as a natural laboratory.
- No. 1 Tool - *Conservation Easements* on working lands: farms, ranches, and commercial forests for landscape-scale preservation.





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