



Florida's Path to Protecting

Our Planet

2024 Florida
Impact Report

Letter from the Executive Director



The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Florida is a critical connector. We bring people, organizations, and governments together. We link science with action. We connect public and private resources to conservation outcomes to protect ocean, land, and fresh water; to provide food and water; and to tackle climate change. And we do it all so people and nature can thrive.

I hope that as you read this report, you will recognize the transformative power of your philanthropy and be inspired by the victories of this past year, as well as the long-term and deeply meaningful work that is underway.

Your gifts allow us to do this work. Thank you.

Together, we are making a difference for nature in Florida and in areas that extend far beyond our state. Just as wildlife traverse borders, our work positively impacts nature and people across state and international boundaries. For example, we're collaborating with other TNC state chapters to protect critical migration corridors that stretch from the Florida Keys to the Appalachian Mountains. We're removing barriers to free-flowing waterways in Alabama to restore habitat and repopulate fish species. And we're partnering with neighboring countries in the Caribbean and Central America to steward lands and waters, protect people's livelihoods, and safeguard biodiversity.

With a presence in nearly 80 countries and territories and all 50 U.S. states, TNC has set some ambitious global goals to achieve by 2030:

Avoid or sequester 3 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually—the same as taking 650 million cars off the road every year.

Conserve 4 billion hectares of ocean—more than 10% of the world's ocean area.

Conserve 1 million km of river systems and 30 million hectares of lakes and wetlands—enough river length alone to stretch across the globe 25 times.

Conserve 650 million hectares of lands, such as forests and grasslands—an area twice the size of India.

Help 100 million people at severe risk of climate-related emergencies such as floods, fires, and drought.

Support the leadership of 45 million people from local and Indigenous communities whose well-being and livelihoods depend on healthy oceans, freshwater, and lands.

I have no doubt that we can accomplish these goals. But it will take all of us to maintain our forward momentum—strengthening the critical connections we need to achieve success.

In each project detailed in this report, I see examples of our progress. I also see the people who make it all possible. It's people like you whose contributions drive us forward on the path to protecting our planet.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Knecht'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Greg Knecht, *Executive Director*

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Download and share a digital copy of this report.

Solutions to Species Loss and Climate Change Start in the South

The Florida Chapter works in partnership with nine other southern states and collaborates across ecosystems to accomplish the following goals for people and nature. You'll see these referenced throughout this report.





SOUTHERN CONNECTION

Florida Conservation Makes an Impact Beyond Our Borders

On our lands and in our oceans, communities and the halls of government, TNC in Florida connects the people and places that make conservation progress possible.

Connecting Lands and Waters Creates Critical Pathways for Wildlife

As we set out to achieve TNC's global 2030 goals to protect 1.6 billion acres of land, we're connecting key wildlife habitats across the Southeast and helping reverse species loss. Conservation in Florida and along its coasts impacts the lands and fresh waters across the Southeast, in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and beyond. Whether it's largescale land acquisitions in the South Carolina Lowcountry, protecting properties in Alabama and Georgia that create a vital wildlife corridor to the southern Appalachians, restoring oyster reefs in Florida's Panhandle, or removing river barriers to sturgeon spawning in Alabama, our conservation work is interconnected.

Like Florida's iconic land mammals, the Florida panther and black bear, the marine life that benefit from our work—including the Atlantic bluefin tuna, and North Atlantic right whale, for example—don't respect human-made boundaries. Similarly, native and migratory birds and insects rely on the natural green and blue spaces we work to protect and restore across our state.

TNC's connected conservation approach helps support healthy and biodiverse habitats for Florida and the planet.

Future Forward

As the impacts of climate change alter habitats and disrupt ecosystems, mammals, birds, and amphibians will be forced to move to more hospitable climates. In the Southeast, researchers project wildlife will on average head northeast through the Appalachian Mountain corridor.



● Birds ● Mammals ● Amphibians



View an animated projection of species migration.

On the Move

Migratory Monarch Butterfly, VU

Migratory monarch butterflies live in parts of South Florida full time, but also use North and Central Florida as stopovers during their long voyages to Mexico in the winter and the northern U.S. and Canada in the summer.



Golden-Winged Warbler, NT

This small bird breeds almost exclusively in the Appalachian Mountains, migrating through Florida as it travels to South and Central America in the winter.



Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, LC

This migratory fish travels thousands of miles from Canada, along Florida's East Coast, and to the Gulf of Mexico to spawn.



North Atlantic Right Whale, CR

Right whales feed and breed in the Gulf of Maine and travel in coastal and deepwater areas along the East Coast to birth their calves in South Georgia and North Florida.



Atlantic sturgeon travel between rivers, estuaries, and deepwater in their lifetimes, venturing up and down the East Coast while at sea.



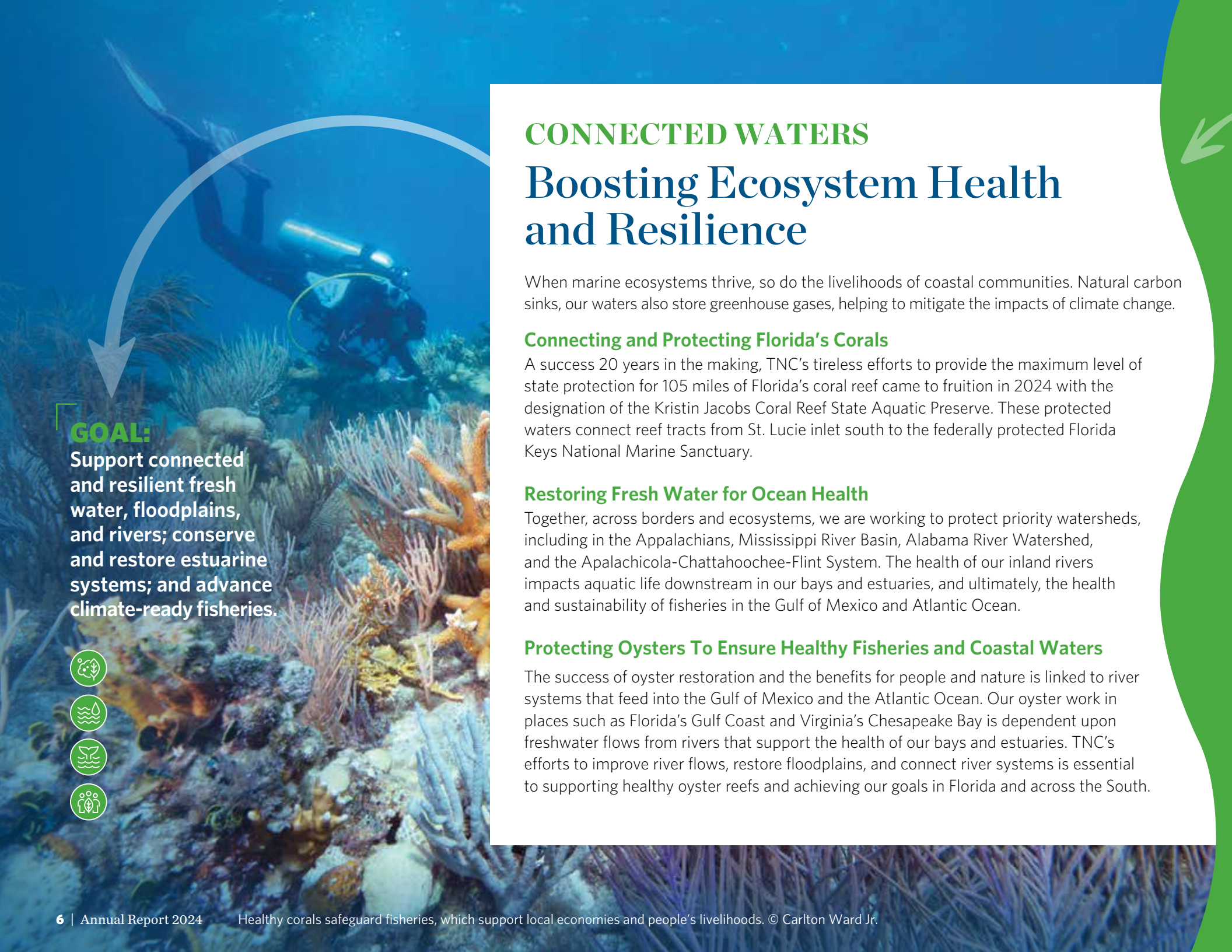
Every two to five years, green turtles travel up to 1,600 miles from their feeding grounds to nest in the vicinity of where they were hatched. Florida beaches, like the 1-mile stretch at TNC's Blowing Rocks Preserve in Hobe Sound, are popular nesting grounds.



Florida black bears, LC Florida black bears move across state lines to find mates, traveling to Georgia and Alabama through connected wildlife corridors.

KEY

- Species Conservation Status, IUCN:
- CR Critically Endangered
 - EN Endangered
 - VU Vulnerable
 - NT Near Threatened
 - LC Least Concern



CONNECTED WATERS

Boosting Ecosystem Health and Resilience

When marine ecosystems thrive, so do the livelihoods of coastal communities. Natural carbon sinks, our waters also store greenhouse gases, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Connecting and Protecting Florida's Corals

A success 20 years in the making, TNC's tireless efforts to provide the maximum level of state protection for 105 miles of Florida's coral reef came to fruition in 2024 with the designation of the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef State Aquatic Preserve. These protected waters connect reef tracts from St. Lucie inlet south to the federally protected Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Restoring Fresh Water for Ocean Health

Together, across borders and ecosystems, we are working to protect priority watersheds, including in the Appalachians, Mississippi River Basin, Alabama River Watershed, and the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint System. The health of our inland rivers impacts aquatic life downstream in our bays and estuaries, and ultimately, the health and sustainability of fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.

Protecting Oysters To Ensure Healthy Fisheries and Coastal Waters

The success of oyster restoration and the benefits for people and nature is linked to river systems that feed into the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Our oyster work in places such as Florida's Gulf Coast and Virginia's Chesapeake Bay is dependent upon freshwater flows from rivers that support the health of our bays and estuaries. TNC's efforts to improve river flows, restore floodplains, and connect river systems is essential to supporting healthy oyster reefs and achieving our goals in Florida and across the South.

GOAL:

Support connected and resilient fresh water, floodplains, and rivers; conserve and restore estuarine systems; and advance climate-ready fisheries.





“Our work in Florida’s river watersheds—protecting natural landscapes upstream and reducing agricultural and urban stormwater runoff—is essential for restoring water quality and bolstering freshwater, estuarine and marine species resilience.”

—Beth Lewis, resilient lands and waters strategy director for TNC in Florida

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Helping Local Leaders Plan for the Future

Florida’s population is growing on average by 800 people per day, and Central Florida is a hot spot for this growth. With increased development pressures on remaining greenspaces and demands on natural resources, like drinking water, TNC is creating tools like the EcoUrban Assessment Resource (EcoResource) to guide community leaders and local governments in smart growth and equitable conservation planning.

A free and publicly accessible tool, the EcoResource helps visualize environmental challenges like flooding risks, freshwater quality, urban tree coverage, access to green spaces, and more. Launching the EcoResource of Orange County in 2023, TNC is now scaling the project to create a similar tool for Osceola County. By tailoring data sets and layers per unique community needs, we’re supporting local leaders and residents while reducing negative impacts on nature in one of Florida’s fastest growing areas.

TNC’s EcoResource work is made possible through the generous support of **ADS Foundation** and **Duke Energy Foundation**, and the many community partners and stakeholders who contribute insight, feedback, and expertise.

GOAL:
Connect with residents, advocates, and leaders to promote nature-based solutions to community challenges.



Learn more about TNC’s EcoResource.



TNC’s work in communities supports local leaders and residents and aims to provide equitable access to nature.
© SEASTOCK/iStock INSET: Beth Lewis
© TNC Staff



Conservation Champion

The Edward E. Haddock, Jr. Family Foundation

A loyal TNC partner for over a decade, The Edward E. Haddock, Jr. Family Foundation works to advance restorative relationships among people and the planet.

“We see TNC as a strategic co-creator of the world we want to live in,” says Ted Haddock, the foundation’s president and a trustee on the TNC Florida Chapter Board since 2015.

“The Edward E. Haddock, Jr. Family Foundation is a true conservation champion,” says Greg Knecht, executive director of TNC in Florida. “But its financial support is just the tip of the iceberg. The value of Ted’s contributions of time, talent, and expertise on the board are immeasurable. Together, we are finding a way to solve our planet’s greatest challenges.”

In 2024, the foundation provided TNC with critical seed funding for a pioneering project that seeks to improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and change the way communities manage stormwater runoff.

The foundation is not only supporting the project philanthropically, it also plans to tell the story behind it through its filmmaking arm, Common Pictures. A photographer, filmmaker, and artist, Haddock established Common Pictures in 2017. “I have a bias toward the power of visual art and storytelling,” he says. “If we can show what’s possible, we believe that others will join us.”

For Haddock, restoring water quality in the IRL isn’t only the right thing to do, it’s personal. “We’ve lived out some of our family’s most

special experiences there,” he says. “When a wonderful place like this [IRL] starts to deteriorate because of avoidable problems that we’ve introduced and the animals that live there begin to suffer and die from lack of food and polluted waters, I believe that we all have a responsibility to figure out a way to fix it.”

Haddock says he is most excited about the potential to scale the TNC-led IRL project to other waterways. “This project has the capacity to impact not only Florida and the continental U.S., it is positioned to become a leading force in the global effort toward eco-restoration,” he says.

In addition to environmental stewardship, the foundation prioritizes social justice. Haddock spent 10 years as director of photography for International Justice Mission and serves on the boards of Humanite Peace Collective, The National Slavery Museum Foundation, and Orlando Land Trust. He also established The Foundation Hub, a collaborative workspace for nonprofits; Kaley Square, an asset-based community development organization in a distressed community; and Friends of Tinker Field Foundation, which promotes Orlando’s civil rights history.

His faith and a deep sense of responsibility fuels Haddock’s volunteer service and philanthropy. “I believe that all of creation is a gift from God for people to enjoy and to care for as stewards,” he says. “If we allow our ecosystems to fail, the heavy consequences burden us all. Caring for nature is a great way to love our neighbor.”

Ted Haddock, left, and his father, Ed Haddock, the founder of The Edward E. Haddock, Jr. Family Foundation, are dedicated to preserving nature and restoring relationships between people and the planet. © 2024, Ted Haddock

IN FOCUS

Innovating Solutions To Protect Water Quality

The Indian River Lagoon (IRL) is one of the most biodiverse estuaries in North America and home to manatees, dolphins, and over 4,000 other species. It generates \$9.9 billion in economic value annually along with 50% of the annual fish harvest for Florida's East Coast.

Sadly, pollutants and excess nutrients are entering the estuary through stormwater runoff putting aquatic life, livelihoods, and local economies at risk.

To restore the lagoon, TNC is launching in partnership with donors, local government, and communities a smart watershed network to reduce pollutants and nutrients entering the IRL.

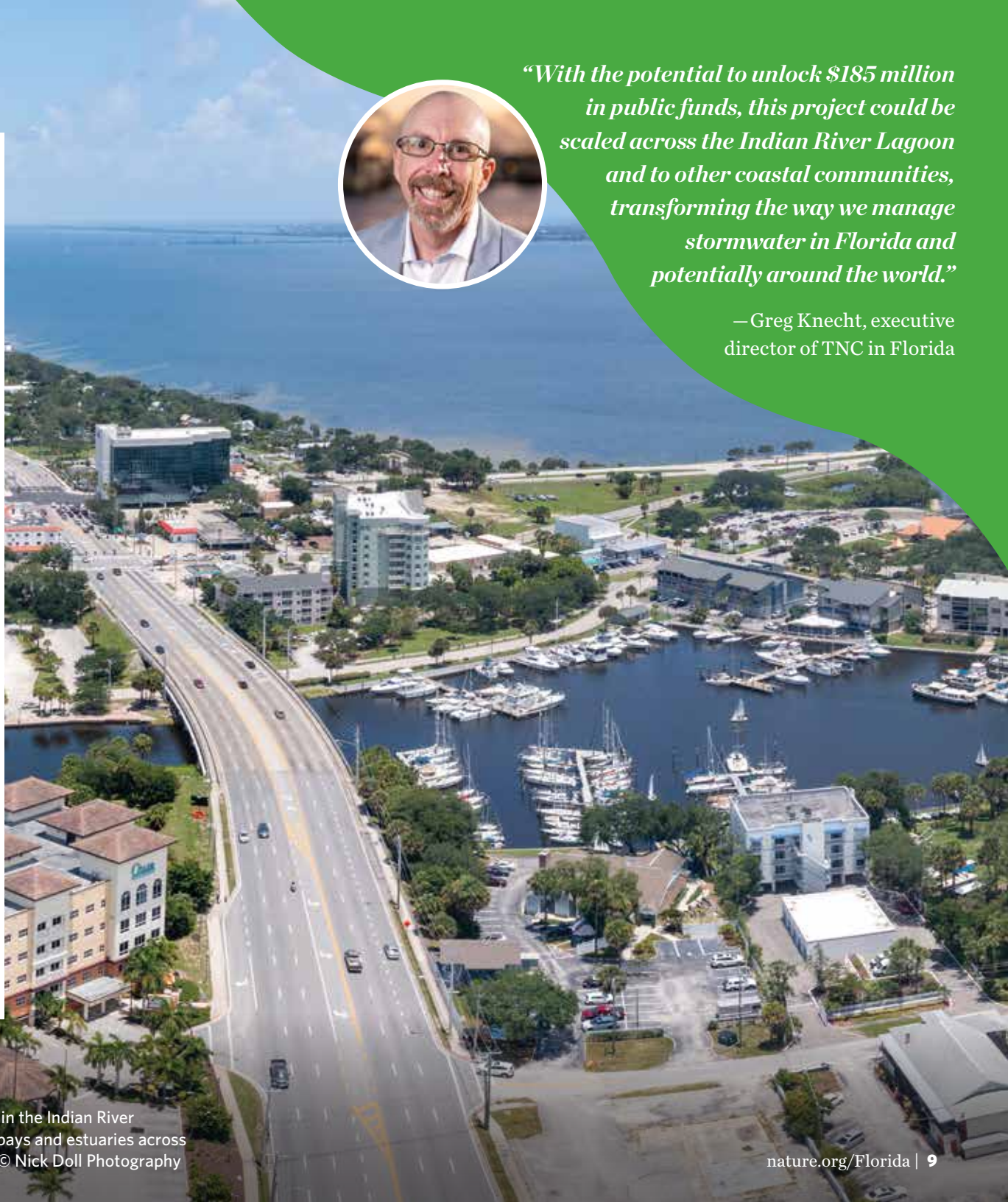
We're grateful to **The Edward E. Haddock, Jr. Family Foundation**, which provided generous seed funding for this project. Additional philanthropic gifts are needed to support the 800,000-acre watershed proof-of-concept.

To learn more about this project, email:
floridaupdates@tnc.org.



“With the potential to unlock \$185 million in public funds, this project could be scaled across the Indian River Lagoon and to other coastal communities, transforming the way we manage stormwater in Florida and potentially around the world.”

— Greg Knecht, executive director of TNC in Florida



TNC's smart watershed network seeks to improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon while establishing a model that can be scaled to benefit bays and estuaries across Florida and the U.S. © Stephen Wood/istock INSET: Greg Knecht © Nick Doll Photography

“When we work with state and federal partners and private landowners to protect land, we can give panthers a chance at recovery.”

—Wendy Mathews, senior conservation projects manager for TNC in Florida



GOAL:
Protect a resilient and connected network of lands with strategic acquisition, management, and restoration.



CONNECTED LANDS

Creating a Resilient and Connected Network of Green and Blue Spaces

Strengthening the connections between habitats is crucial to reversing species loss and addressing climate change impacts. TNC in Florida helps create a network of protected natural habitats for wildlife. When TNC protects lands, it also safeguards the fresh waters on and in the aquifers below them. Additionally, protected lands store carbon dioxide, helping to prevent climate impacts for our planet.

Protecting the Florida Wildlife Corridor and Beyond

Along with ever-increasing development, population growth, and habitat fragmentation, Florida's wildlife are also impacted by climate change. Soon, the lands we save in the Florida Wildlife Corridor will offer needed breeding and hunting grounds for countless species adapting to a changing habitat.

Wildlife know no borders. Across the Alabama and Georgia state lines, the Florida Wildlife Corridor connects to large, protected areas like Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Conecuh State Forest, and lands along the Perdido River. TNC's goal is to ultimately link protected and working lands from the Florida Keys to the Southern Appalachians, creating safe passages for species seeking new homes and preserving biodiversity.

Two swallow-tailed kite chicks sit atop their nest in a loblolly pine in Withlacoochee State Forest. The species can migrate up to 16,000 miles from South America to breed and winter in Florida. © Mac Stone INSET: Wendy Mathews © Courtesy Wendy Mathews



Connecting Conserved Lands and Closing a Gap in a 22,000-acre Conservation Hub

TNC in Florida purchased and protected key sandhill habitat in the Florida Wildlife Corridor in fiscal year 2024. The 750-acre Cola River Land and Timber property connects TNC’s Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve (ABRP) and Torreya State Park, and will be collaboratively restored using prescribed fire and other land management techniques.

Restoring this property will support rare and threatened wildlife like eastern indigo snakes, a federally threatened species that had all but disappeared from North Florida. TNC and its conservation partners have been reintroducing the snakes at ABRP for the past eight years. In the fall of 2023, TNC staff observed the first wild-born eastern indigo hatchlings at the preserve—the offspring of reintroduced snakes. The hatchlings are a promising sign that TNC’s restored lands can once again support the apex predator. Linking the preserve to protected state property, the Cola River Land and Timber acquisition expands habitat for this species and others.

Donors supporting this conservation win included: **EJK Foundation, Felburn Foundation, Jelks Family Foundation, Knobloch Family Foundation, and The Spurlino Foundation.**

Expanding Panther Breeding Habitat in Partnership with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Adding to the 30,000-acre Florida Panther Dispersal Zone, the G Road Grove conservation easement helps connect panthers’ current breeding population in areas south of the Caloosahatchee River to suitable habitat north of the river. This 876-acre active citrus grove and tree nursery provides habitat and food sources for native wildlife, including Florida panther.

Part of our Conserving Resilient Lands, Oceans and Waters strategy, G Road Grove’s protection was supported by donors that include: **Donald Slavik Family Foundation, Jerry and Joanne Robertson, Raymond George and Ruth Bitner Fisher Foundation, Dale Reed, and Rogers Family Foundation.**





CENTER FOR CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Connecting People and Nature

To tackle climate change and reverse species loss, we must first connect with people who can make a difference. TNC in Florida's Center for Conservation Initiatives (CCI) engages with scientists and the public, pioneering new conservation strategies while nurturing a love for nature and a passion to protect it.

CCI programs and services are made possible thanks in part to gifts from the **Joe and Renate Hixon family**, **Jack Meeks** and **JoAnn Tredennick**, and the **Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin County**. The **Hixon CCI Endowment Fund**, established by the **Joe and Renate Hixon family**, also provides ongoing support for CCI activities.

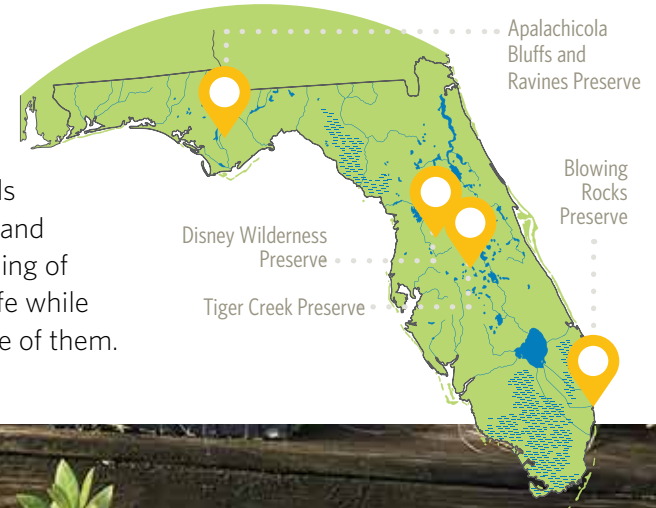
GOAL:

Advance conservation science; develop and demonstrate best land management practices; and train and inspire future environmental stewards.



CCI Campuses

At our four campus preserves, visitors connect with nature and conservation in the wild. Scientists and land stewards use our preserves for experimentation and discovery, helping advance understanding of Florida's unique ecosystems and wildlife while developing techniques to best take care of them.



Serigne Ndiaye

“My internship experience at The Nature Conservancy has been instrumental in preparing me for my new role as a biological scientist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). During my internship, I gained valuable hands-on experience in land management practices, such as identifying and treating invasive species. I was able to build a professional network with colleagues, mentors, and environmental professionals during the various Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area workdays.”

A South Florida land and conservation intern for TNC’s CCI, Ndiaye (pictured, left, at the Blowing Rocks Preserve native plant nursery) started working for the FWC’s Imperiled Species Division in April 2024.

Connecting Careers To Scale Impact

To protect our lands now and in the future, CCI invests in the careers and leadership potential of Florida’s natural resource professionals. Filling a professional development need, TNC launched the CCI Conservation Exchange (ConX) in February 2024. A first-of-its-kind, multi-agency collaboration, TNC’s CCI co-developed the three-day, experiential-learning program with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Forest Service, and Florida Park Service.

ConX will be offered annually to cohorts of about 50 participants with the goal of building an active conservation community of practice that grows with each new cohort.

Through in-person trainings and hands-on field trips, ConX participants exchange ideas and develop solutions to land management challenges.



TNC/National Geographic Society Externship Develops Future Conservation Leaders

To halt nature loss and tackle climate change, it’s imperative that we harness the power and influence of Generation Z, while also equipping them to be conservation advocates for the future. That’s why together with the National Geographic Society, TNC developed an externship program for people ages 18-25.

The program connects participants with TNC experts and National Geographic Society Explorers from around the world. Externs build conservation knowledge through curated online courses, evaluate local conservation issues, and create a StoryMap to present their findings and solutions.

The program also creates a workforce pipeline. Case in point: Gabriela Tejeda, a recent Florida extern, who is now a TNC employee.



“TNC’s externship program gave me the confidence to pursue a career in the field of conservation storytelling; a space where my passion for science, nature, and creative art come together to help share the inspiring stories of our natural world.”

— Gabriela Tejeda,
editorial and content
coordinator for TNC’s
World Office



“Everything we do in TNC’s Indigenous right-relations work is place-based and relationship-centered. The small-group, two-week trainings with a dedicated fire manager is what makes the Exchange different from other programs. Along with gaining needed qualifications, we create and nurture long-term learning relationships. My fire training in Florida, and my connections with fellow stewards across the U.S., helps me support our Indigenous fire partners and their self-determined goals.”

—Brandon Cobb,
Indigenous Peoples
Burning Network, Nebraska

GOAL:
Partner with communities to restore and improve management of working lands, and to learn and support local leaders in stewarding the environment.



LIVING WITH FIRE

Florida Leads in Prescribed Fire Partnerships

Regular prescribed fire helps ensure a biodiverse planet. Many habitats, like longleaf pine forests, which extend across the Southeast, require regular fire episodes to grow and thrive. Controlled burning also helps prevent wildland fires, which can damage property and contaminate freshwater sources.

To promote biodiversity in Florida, restore native ecosystems, and protect people, TNC connects with partners across state and international boundaries to gain and share prescribed fire knowledge, and boost our land management capacity.

TNC and Partner Fire Crews From Across North America Connect at Florida Preserves

Nearly all of Florida’s conservation lands depend on fire directly or indirectly to support the diversity of plant and animal life. As a leader in prescribed fire since 1979, TNC in Florida launched the One Conservancy Fire Learning Exchange (OCFLE) in 2023 to bring fire practitioners together from around the country for hands-on practice and collaboration.

Expanded this year to include participants from 10 states, OCFLE increases Florida’s prescribed fire capacity, helps develop TNC’s North America land stewardship workforce, and scales Florida’s fire expertise to benefit lands and biodiversity across the country. Exchange participants take their skills back home, applying what they’ve learned to their local TNC preserves and partner lands.

TNC Celebrates Historic Land Management Funding

Florida's conservation agencies and partners like TNC are celebrating the State Legislature's historic \$100 million allocation of ongoing funding to manage and improve protected state lands. A portion of state revenue from the Seminole Gaming Compact of 2021, the annual allocation will go toward the management of uplands, to include prescribed fire and the removal of invasive species.

The Legislature also approved, and the Governor signed, Senate Bill 1638 that directs 96% of the revenue generated from the Seminole Tribe Compact to fund water quality improvement, infrastructure, and the continued acquisition and management of Florida's conservation lands, including the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

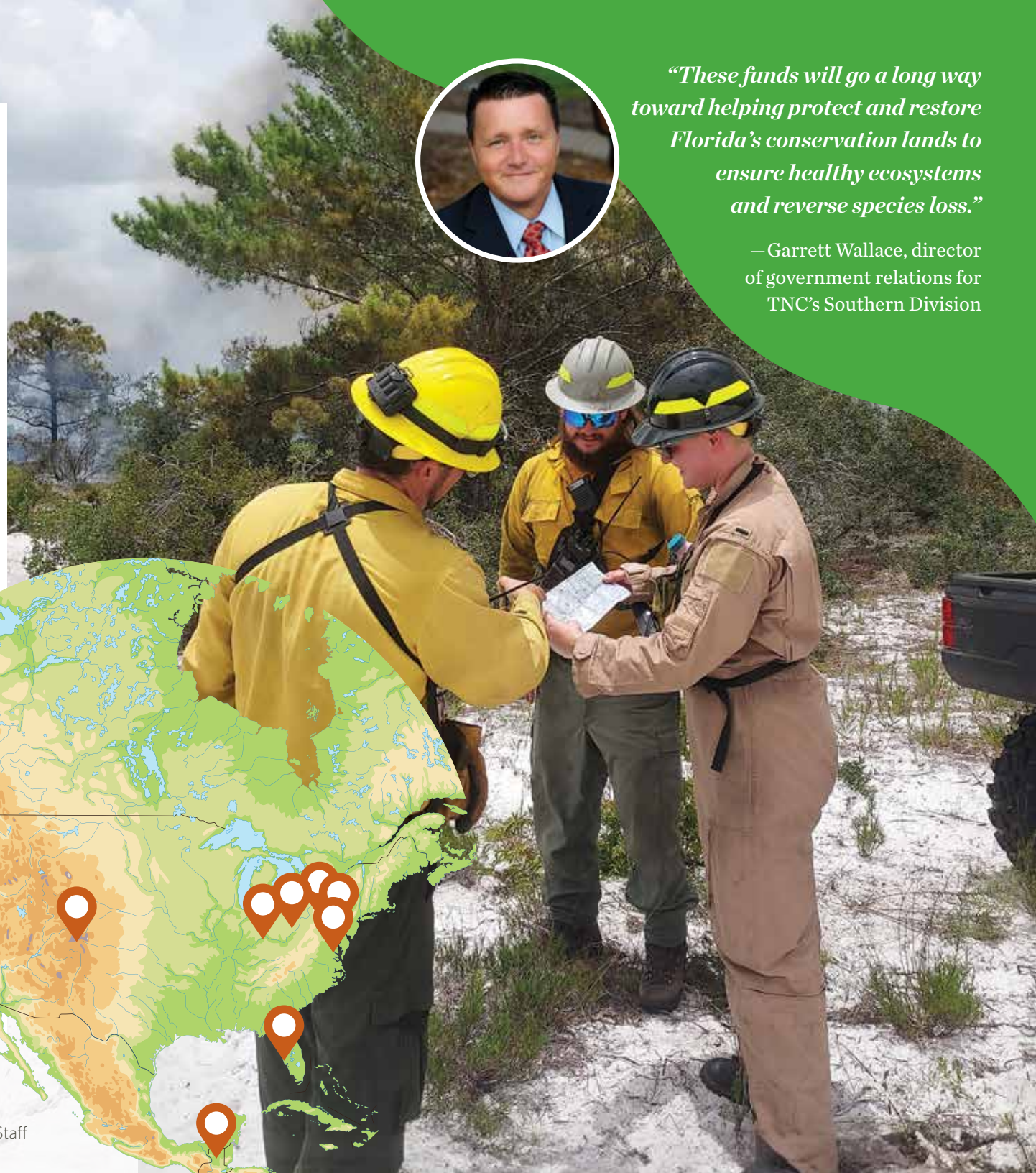
In 2024, TNC in Florida's OCFLE trained fire practitioners from 10 states. Seventeen TNC fire practitioners (several from Florida) also participated in the Belize Forestry Department's joint fire suppression workshop in February.

One Conservancy Fire Learning Exchange trainees discuss fire ignition techniques during a partner burn at Archbold Biological Station in July. © David Printiss; INSET: Garrett Wallace © Kay Meyer Photography; Map © TNC Staff



“These funds will go a long way toward helping protect and restore Florida’s conservation lands to ensure healthy ecosystems and reverse species loss.”

—Garrett Wallace, director of government relations for TNC’s Southern Division





Climate Action Leader

VoLo Foundation

Growing up in Venezuela, Thais Lopez Vogel had a strong connection with nature. Her father, who was a nature and animal lover, taught her to appreciate and value the environment and its creatures. “Through his stories, he showed me how to look at the natural world with the fresh perspective of someone seeing it for the first time,” she says.

Lopez Vogel’s heart for supporting causes she believes in started at a young age as well. She recalls giving her parents coins she had saved to help people she saw in humanitarian commercials on TV.

A practicing attorney in Venezuela, Lopez Vogel moved to the U.S. in 1994. In 2014, she and her husband, David S. Vogel, founded VoLo Foundation. “As David and I continued to donate to projects aligning with our family values, we decided we wanted our giving to have a much bigger impact,” she explains.

Through VoLo Foundation they’ve done just that, particularly when it comes to tackling climate change and raising awareness to the risks and issues surrounding it.

“I wasn’t sure about climate change until I did the math myself,” says David S. Vogel, a hedge fund manager, award-winning quantitative analyst, and data mining scientist. He used high school chemistry and public energy inventories to calculate how many molecules of CO² were in the atmosphere. Bolstered by the findings of environmental and atmospheric scientists, who shared compelling insights into the drivers of greenhouse gas emissions, VoLo Foundation made climate one of its primary funding pillars.

“If I wanted to be able to look my kids in the eyes, I knew we needed to put everything we could into mitigating this crisis,” Lopez Vogel says.

One way the foundation accelerates climate action is by building public awareness. VoLo Foundation hosts two annual statewide events, Florida Climate Week and the Climate Correction Conference; two climate-related podcasts; and a weekly newsletter. And this is only the beginning, Lopez Vogel says.

A loyal TNC partner, VoLo Foundation has funded TNC’s climate action and youth engagement and conservation education programs for nearly a decade. In 2024, a gift from the foundation supported a landmark TNC-commissioned study, “Economic Benefits of Decarbonization in Florida” and the creation of interactive Agents of Discovery missions to inspire a love for nature and a passion to protect it.

“We are deeply grateful to VoLo Foundation for its partnership,” says Greg Knecht, executive director of TNC in Florida. “Only through collaboration can we solve the global crises of climate change and nature loss.”

Lopez Vogel agrees. “The challenges facing us today are massive. We cannot transform or overcome them alone. ... philanthropists like us need to partner with vetted and data-centric organizations that can do the work needed to make this planet a better place to live for our kids, their kids, and generations to come.”

Thais Lopez Vogel, right, and David S. Vogel launched the Climate Correction Conference to raise awareness of the need for climate action. © JC Campos/VoLo Foundation

IN FOCUS

TNC Study Predicts a Prosperous, Net-zero Future

To inform and influence key leaders in industry and state and local governance, TNC in Florida conducted a first-of-its kind economic study—"Economic Benefits of Decarbonization in Florida." The study offers an investment and business lens to the critical need to reduce carbon emissions.



LEARN MORE:

Florida's Decarbonized Future: Groundbreaking Report by The Nature Conservancy - VoLo Foundation

Los Beneficios Económicos de la Descarbonización en Florida, con Sofía León, de The Nature Conservancy. - VoLo Foundation



"If I wanted to be able to look my kids in the eyes, I knew we needed to put everything we could into mitigating this crisis."

—Thais Lopez Vogel,
Founder VoLo Foundation

\$156.1 million

Awarded to the Florida Solar for All (FSFA) coalition, including TNC in Florida, Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF), and Solar United Neighbors (SUN)

\$800 million

In federal funds (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act) that TNC in Florida is helping to deploy in local and tribal communities



GOAL: Mitigate climate impacts by accelerating the renewable energy transition; and help people adapt to the impacts of climate change with nature-based solutions.



CLIMATE ACTION

Creating Climate Partnerships that Benefit People and Nature

As the impacts of climate change become more evident in Florida, TNC is working to adapt and mitigate these impacts through national, state, and local climate policy. We're also leveraging partnerships and technical expertise to increase investment in clean energy technologies and nature-based solutions.

TNC's Florida climate team is working to:

- Catalyze available federal climate funds to help communities mitigate climate impacts
- Accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Boost community resilience
- Reduce energy costs for families, and more

TNC in Florida's climate work is made possible thanks to private philanthropy from donors that include **Jane's Trust Foundation, Bob Olsen, VoLo Foundation,** and **Wells Fargo Foundation.**

Accelerating Clean Energy with Transformative Climate Funding

Our efforts are already bearing fruit. In the spring, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solar for All competitive grant program awarded \$156 million to a Florida coalition that TNC's climate team helped create. The award represents the largest-ever investment in residential solar in Florida, aside from federal tax rebates. Through the Florida Solar for All (FSFA) coalition, we'll work with local governments and community-based partners to deploy rooftop solar for low-income households.

Collaborating with Farmers to Advance and Innovate Agrivoltaics

TNC in Florida's climate team is working with farmers, local officials, and the solar industry to advance innovative agrivoltaics projects, helping to employ solar photovoltaic panels on agricultural lands. Starting in North and Central Florida, we are creating stakeholder coalitions and pilot projects that can be scaled across the southern U.S.



“The Key Largo tree cactus was just wiped out in the wild in its only U.S. location by rapidly increasing sea level rise. Just offshore, Florida’s Coral Reef suffered the most lethal mass coral bleaching event in history in 2023 due to extremely hot sea temperatures. TNC and our partners are actively working to develop plans and actions to help terrestrial and marine species adapt to changing conditions while tackling the root causes of climate change.”

— Chris Bergh, field program director for TNC in Florida





The Nature Conservancy
 in Florida Office
 1035 S. Semoran Blvd.
 Suite 2-1021B
 Winter Park, FL 32792

 (407) 682-3664
 florida@tnc.org

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Through Enduring Earth, TNC is working with herders like Urantsetseg, pictured, and the Mongolian government to protect important ecosystems. © Asher Svidensky



TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR PLANET

As we protect lands and waters and accelerate clean energy in Florida, we’re supporting TNC’s connected efforts around the world. Through an unprecedented collaboration with World Wildlife Fund, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and ZOMALAB—called Enduring Earth—we’re combatting our planet’s biodiversity and climate crises.

Through innovative finance initiatives (Project Finance for Permanence) Enduring Earth aims to protect half a billion hectares of land, ocean, and freshwater systems and work in partnership to secure \$2 billion in new funding to support sustainable economic growth.

PFP agreements are already protecting the Great Bear Rainforest in Canada (since 2006), a vast area of tropical forest and marine habitat in Costa Rica (since 2010), and elsewhere. In April 2024, TNC partnered with the Government of Mongolia, local herding communities and others to launch a PFP that will equip Mongolia to conserve 30% of its lands and waters by 2030.

And this is just the beginning. Enduring Earth starts with us protecting and conserving some of the most precious places on our planet. Together, we have the power to halt species loss and reduce the impacts of climate change. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

LEARN MORE ABOUT TNC'S

Transformative Enduring Earth program.

