

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

AGRICULTURE
Senator Truenow, Chair
Senator Grall, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 7, 2025
TIME: 2:00—3:30 p.m.
PLACE: 301 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Truenow, Chair; Senator Grall, Vice Chair; Senators Bernard, Burton, and Rouson

| TAB | BILL NO. and INTRODUCER | BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS | COMMITTEE ACTION |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| 1 | Presentation by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program | | Presented |
| 2 | Presentation by Traci Deen, President and CEO of Conservation Florida | | Presented |
| 3 | Presentation by the Department of Environmental Protection on Florida Forever | | Presented |
| 4 | Discussion of Member Priorities | | Discussed |
| Other Related Meeting Documents | | | |



Senate Committee on Agriculture

Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

October 7th, 2025



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Commissioner Wilton Simpson

Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

- Agricultural land preservation program
- Designed to protect lands from being developed into uses incompatible with agriculture and natural habitat
- Needed to balance responsible growth and preserving rural heritage to reinforce the state's \$180 billion agricultural sector
- Program meets these goals by acquiring development rights through permanent rural land protection easements



4G Ranch, Pasco County

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

Our Critical Role in Florida's Future

- Preserves agricultural lands in perpetuity
- Protects our food supply as a matter of national security
- Maintains status as taxable property supporting local government services
- No cost to the state to maintain the land
- Keeps working lands in working hands



Bentley Ranch, Hardee County

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

Agriculture's Role

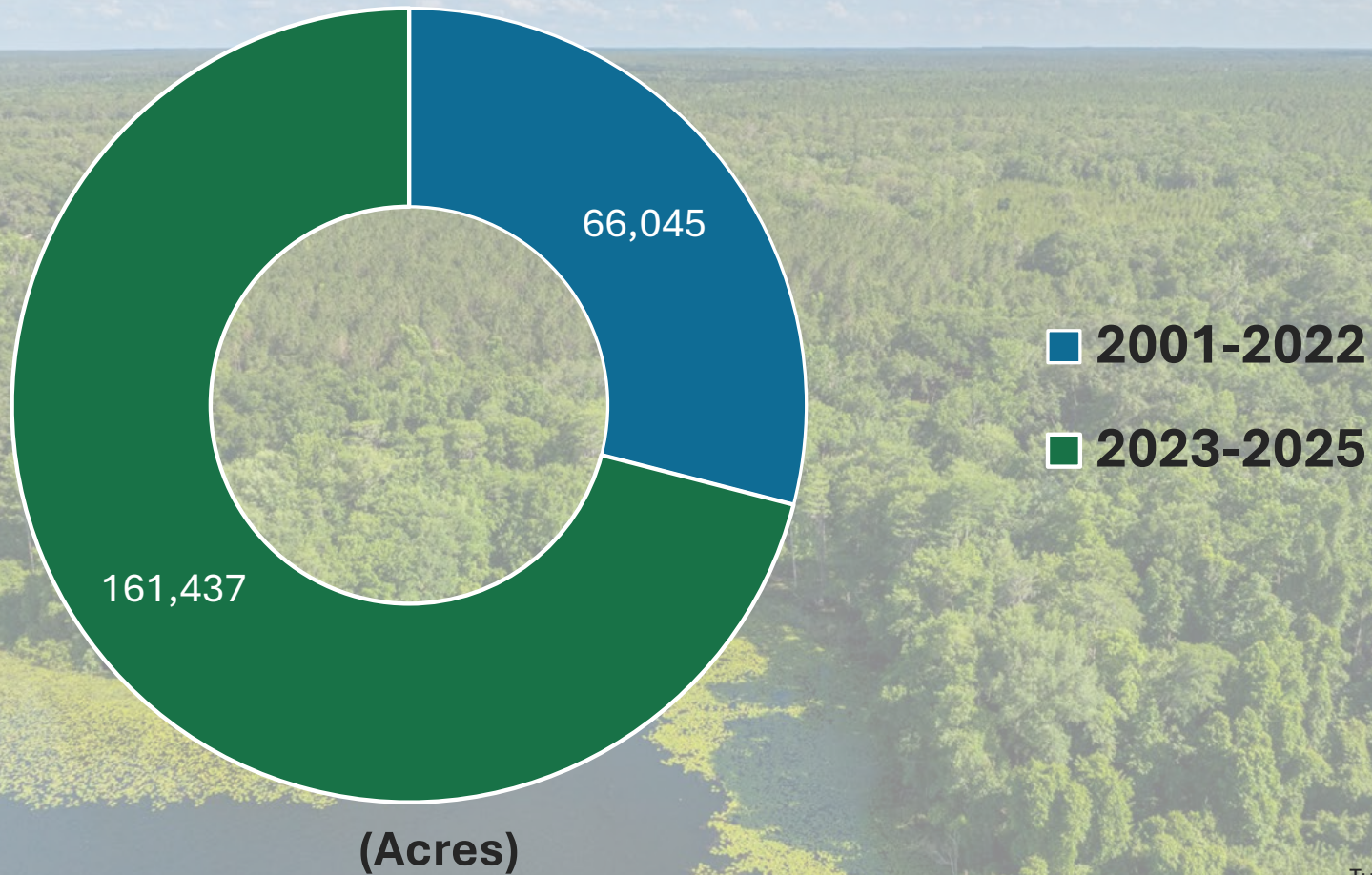
- Promotion and improvement of wildlife habitat;
- Protection and enhancement of water bodies, Aquifer Recharge Areas, wetlands, and watersheds;
- Perpetuation of open space on lands with Significant Natural Areas; and
- Protection of Agricultural Lands threatened by conversion to other uses.
- Required to enroll in Best Management Practices (BMP) prior to close which makes landowner eligible for implementation cost share.



4G Ranch, Pasco County

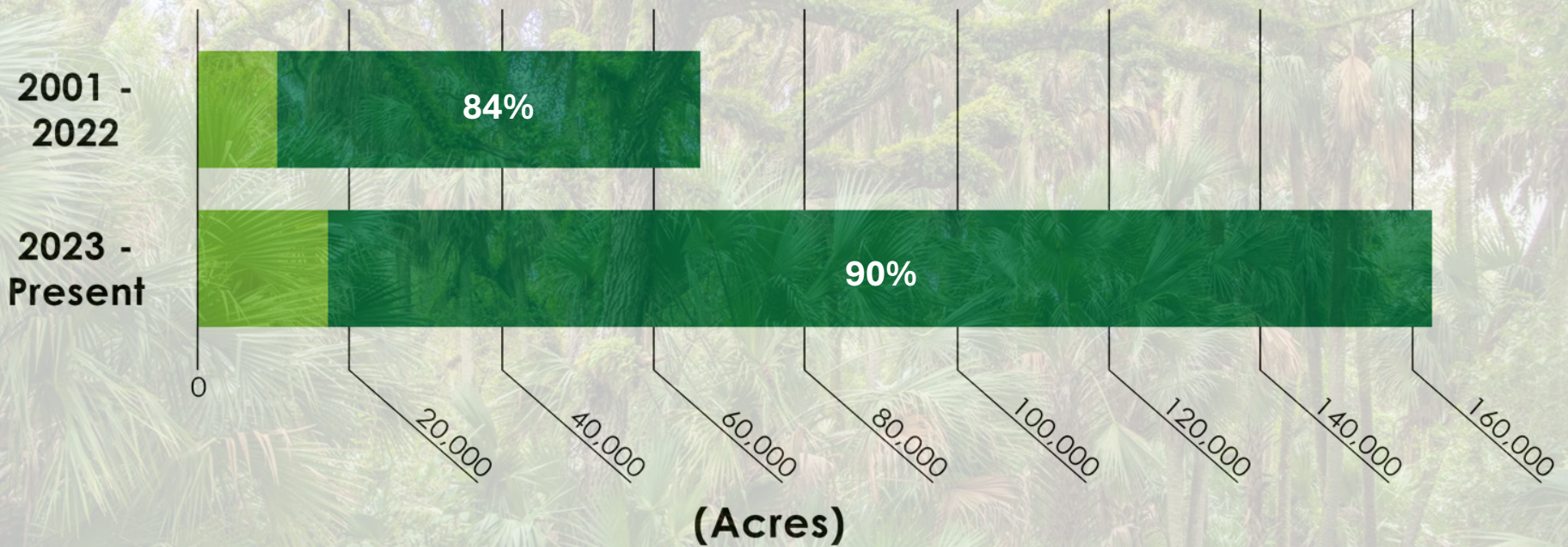
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

Protected Agriculture Lands



Tumlin Project, Alachua County

Investments Within the Florida Wildlife Corridor



Not Within Wildlife Corridor



Within Wildlife Corridor

2025 Ranked Project Acquisition List

- 428 Ranked Projects representing over 530,000 acres
- Balances the following factors:
 - Agricultural Economic Value
 - Agricultural Sustainability
 - Natural Resource Value, Landscape Context, and Condition
 - Additional Natural Resource, Planning, and Strategic Criteria
 - Partnership Funding to Reach More Landowners



Bentley Ranch, Hardee County



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

Funding and Partnerships

Current Year Appropriation: \$250 Million

Total 2025 List Estimated Value: \$1.75 billion

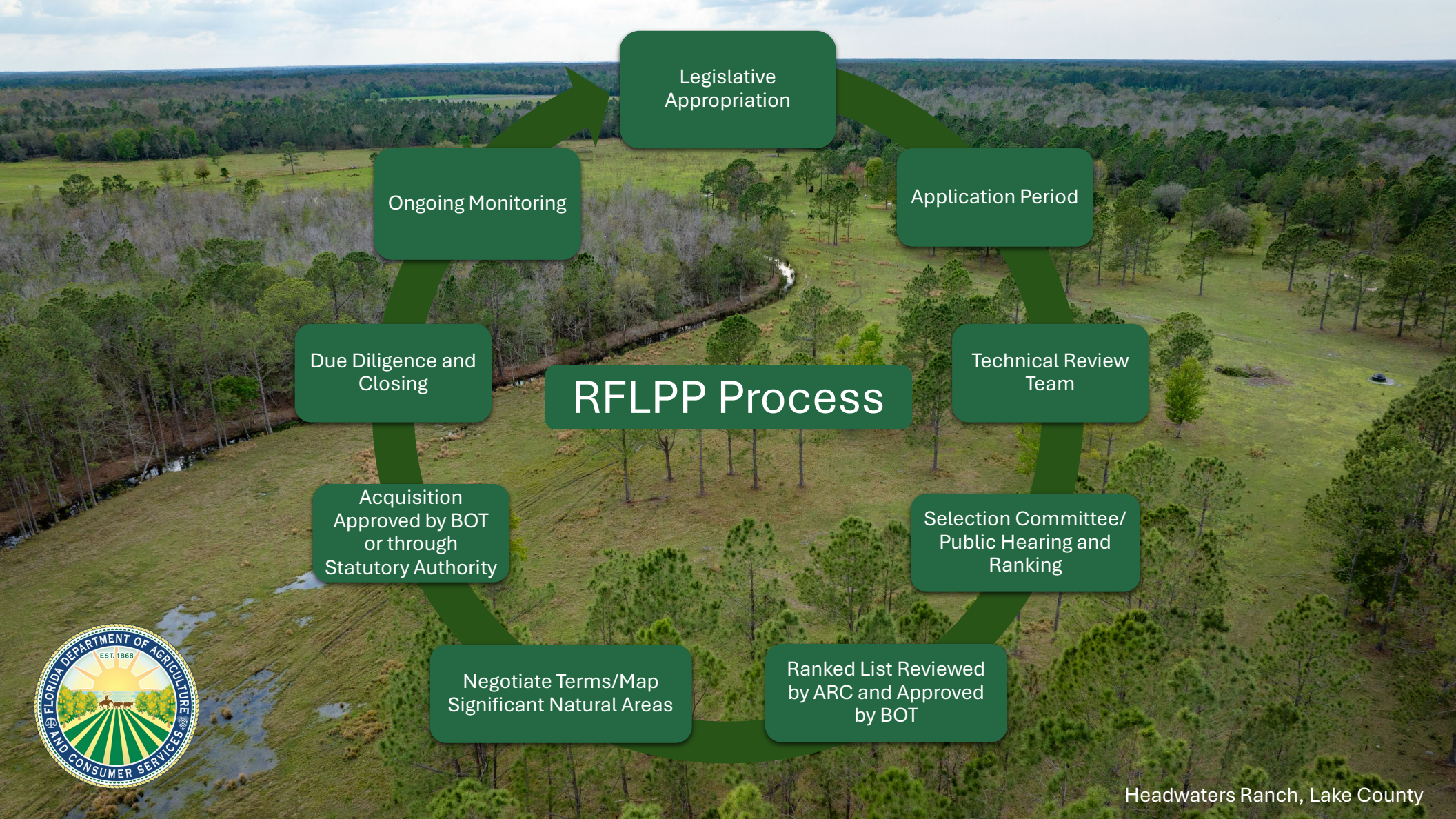
2025 Funding Partnerships:

- 23 Confirmed Project Partnerships totaling \$62.8M in partnership funding
- 29 Project Partnerships in Development
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)
- U.S. Department of Defense: Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI)
- Land Trusts, County Governments, Water Management Districts
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Williams Heritage, Levy County

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson



Headwaters Ranch, Lake County

RFLPP Story Maps



Rural & Family Lands Protection Program



2025 Project Cycle

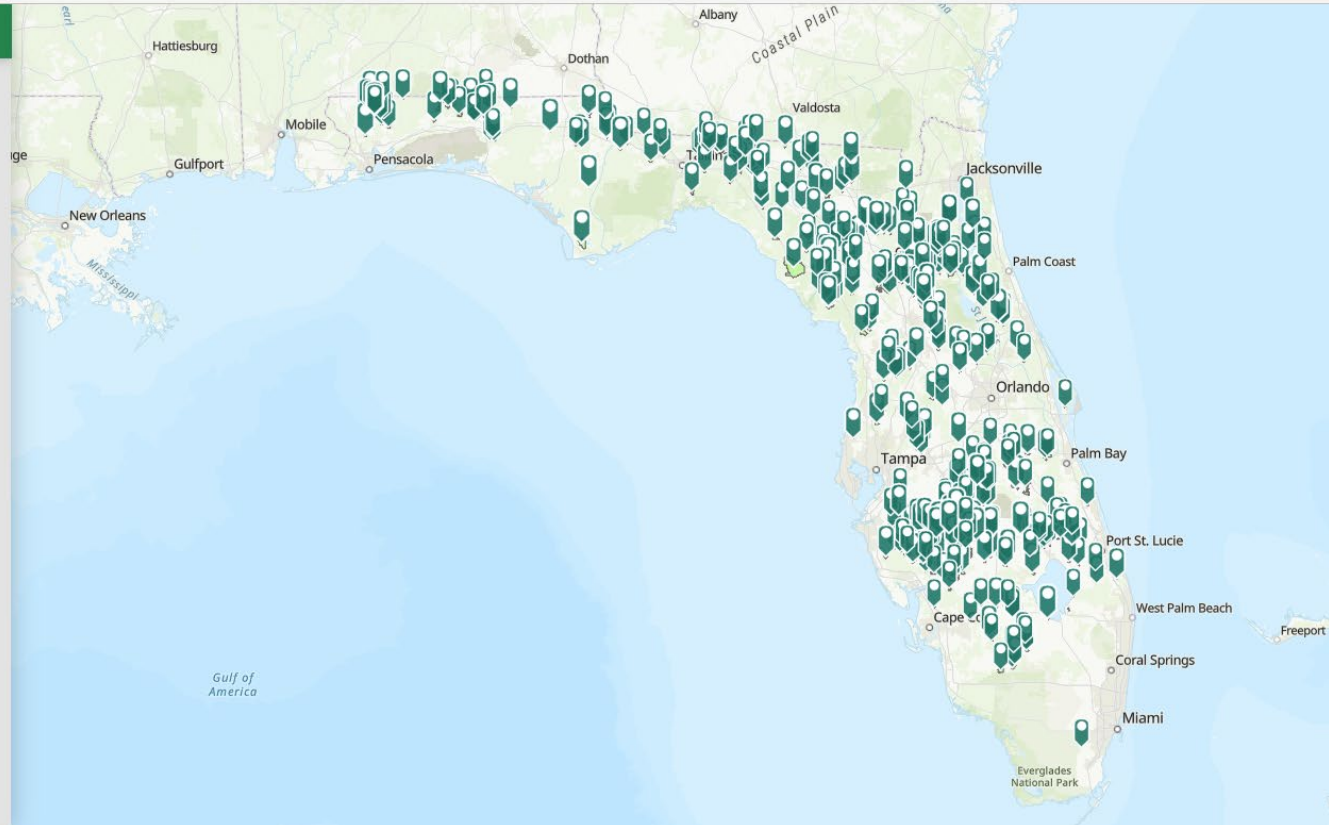
Current Participants



RFLPP Proposed Properties



- 11459 East Bushnell
- 13689 13690 and 13684
- 255 Seigler
- 3 W Ranch LLC
- 408 Millican LLC
- 4G Ranch East
- 4W Ranch
- 61 Ranch
- 652 Campbell
- 782 Island Ranch
- Adams Property - DeSoto
- Adams Ranch - Hardee
- Adams Ranch Osceola
- Adams Ranch St. Lucie
- Akins Timberland
- Alday Family Farm
- Andrew Clyde Bass Living Trust
- Armington Ranch



Thank you!



JP Fraites, Director

John.Fraites@FDACS.gov



Photos by Wildpath: Jen Guyten, Carlton Ward Jr., Lauren Yoho

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

10/07/2025

Meeting Date

Agriculture

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

N/A

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name **John Paul Fraites**

Phone **(850) 617-7700**

Address **400 S. Monroe St**
Street

Email **N/A**

Tallahassee
City

FL
State

32399
Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☒ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)



CONSERVATION FLORIDA

Traci Deen, Esq.
President + CEO



A sandhill crane stands in a marshy area with tall grass and water. The crane is facing right, with its long neck extended. It has a distinctive red patch on its forehead. The background is filled with dense, green vegetation and trees. The lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting, with warm tones on the grass and water.

**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



Photo by Adam Strang Bass

**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



@oldfloridavibes

About

Conservation Florida



CONSERVATION FLORIDA

We **save land** by facilitating, purchasing, or accepting donations of land and conservation easements; serving as a trusted community partner supporting statewide land conservation; and through advocacy, education, and outreach programming.





Photo by Adam Strang Bass

**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



Photo by Adam Strang Bass

**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**

CONSERVATION
FLORIDA





Photo by Adam Strang Bass

**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**

CONSERVATION FLORIDA

conservationfla.org

Traci Deen

President + CEO

Traci@conservationfla.org



The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

10-7-25

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

ag

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

TRACI DEEN

Phone

786-271-3113

Address

1527 E CONCORD ST

Email

Traci@conservationfla.org

Street

ORLANDO

City

FL

State

32803

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)



OUR LANDS. OUR LEGACY.

THE PATH AHEAD: SECURING FLORIDA'S CONSERVATION LEGACY.



FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION

Senate Committee on Agriculture

October 7, 2025

Bryan Bradner

**Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation
Department of Environmental Protection**

FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM

OVERVIEW



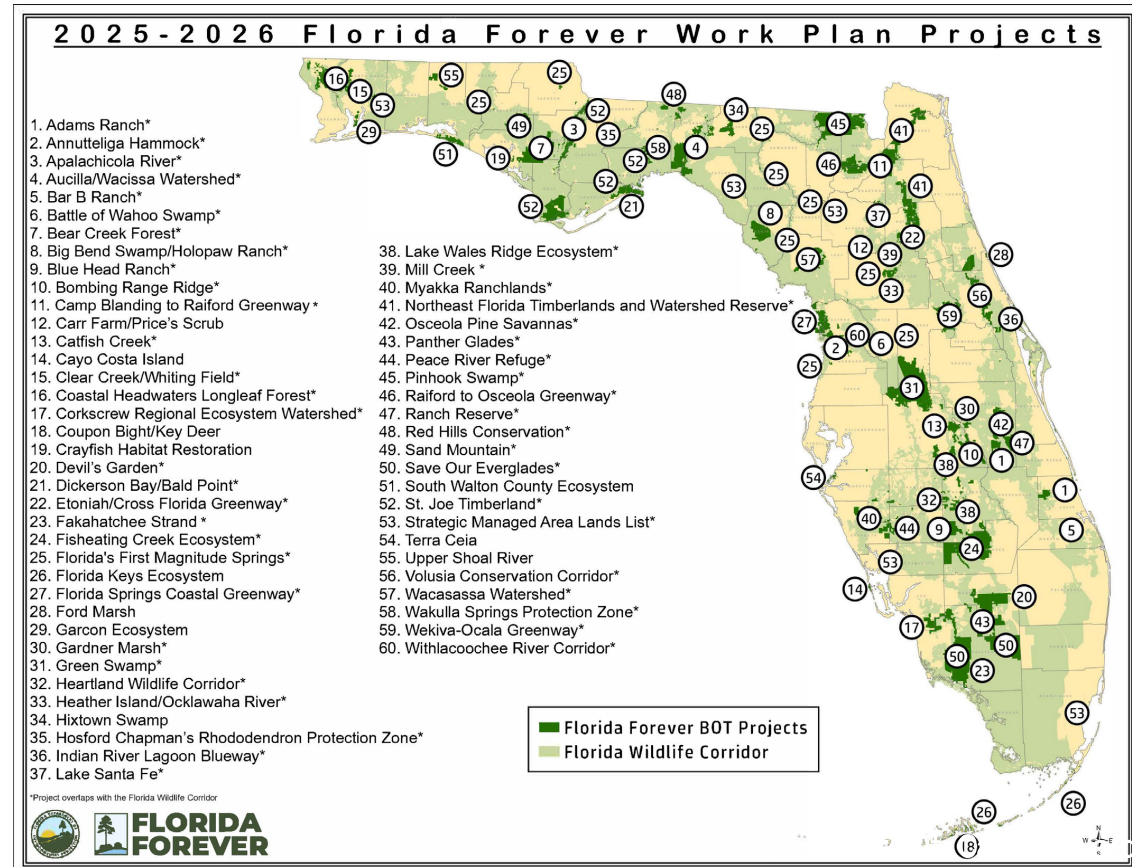
- Florida has a long history as a **national leader** in conservation, which is vital to our state's environmental protection and economic growth.
- **Florida Forever** acquisitions provide a host of benefits, including water quality and quantity, resilience from storm impacts, habitat and species protection, and outdoor recreation.



FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM PROJECTS



- Each year, a list of priority Florida Forever projects is developed, ranked and approved by the Governor and Cabinet.
- The priority list is then narrowed down to an **annual work plan**.
- In **FY 2025-26**, there are **60** Florida Forever projects on the work plan.
- Over **80%** of the work plan projects are within the **Florida Wildlife Corridor**.



FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM

ACQUISITION TYPES



- There are **two different ways** land is acquired under Florida Forever:
 - **Conservation Easement:** The state owns certain rights to the property, but the seller retains ownership.
 - **Fee Simple:** The state owns the property outright.
- The type of acquisition depends on a variety of factors, but both ways conserve the land in perpetuity.

FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM

FUNDING



| FISCAL YEAR | APPROPRIATION |
|-------------|---------------|
| 2025-26 | \$18 million |
| 2024-25 | \$100 million |
| 2023-24 | \$950 million |
| 2022-23 | \$100 million |
| 2021-22 | \$100 million |
| 2020-21 | \$67 million |
| 2019-20 | \$33 million |
| 2018-19 | \$77 million |



FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM

EXPENDITURES AND SUCCESSES



- Since January 2019, over **\$1.4 billion** has been committed to the Florida Forever program.
- During this time, DEP has acquired over **374,000 acres**, 91% of which are within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.



Yarborough Ranch Florida Forever Project
Lauren Yoho/Wildpath

FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM

EXPENDITURES AND SUCCESSES



CALENDAR YEAR 2024

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Acres Acquired | 68,764 |
| Expenditure | \$321,339,394 |
| Transactions | 99 |

CALENDAR YEAR 2025 (TO DATE)

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Acres Acquired | 79,387 |
| Expenditure | \$286,344,409 |
| Transactions | 84 |

- Last year, DEP acquired **68,764 acres** of conservation and recreation land.
 - **53%** were conservation easements.
 - **47%** were fee simple acquisitions.
- In 2025, DEP has acquired **79,387 acres** to date.

FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



Bear Creek Forest Florida Forever Project
Lauren Yoho/Wildpath

- 12,262 acres acquired in Bay County for a **new state forest**.
- 74-acre acquired as an **addition** to Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park in Polk County.
- 2,480 acres acquired in Walton County for a **new state park**.
- 200th **conservation easement** acquired.



THANK YOU

For any questions:
Alex Cronin, Legislative Affairs Director
Alex.Cronin@FloridaDEP.gov
850-245-2092

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Land Conservation

Bill Number or Topic

10/7/2025

Meeting Date

S. Agriculture

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Bryan Bradner

Phone

850-245-2092

Address

3900 Commonwealth Blvd

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32399

Zip

Email

alex.cronin@FloridaDEP.gov

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Presentation by FDEP
Deputy Secretary Bryan Bradner

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 301

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Agriculture Committee **Judge:**

Started: 10/7/2025 2:00:12 PM

Ends: 10/7/2025 2:59:39 PM

Length: 00:59:28

| | |
|------------|---|
| 2:00:12 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) calls order |
| 2:00:15 PM | Roll Call |
| 2:00:30 PM | Pledge of Allegiance |
| 2:01:10 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) opening statements |
| 2:02:24 PM | Tab 1: Presentation by FDACS Director John Paul (JP) Fraites on Rural and Family Lands Protection Prgm. |
| 2:16:49 PM | Questions: |
| 2:16:55 PM | Sen. Burton |
| 2:17:35 PM | JP Fraites |
| 2:18:34 PM | Sen. Burton |
| 2:18:52 PM | JP Fraites |
| 2:19:57 PM | Sen. Burton |
| 2:20:06 PM | JP Fraites |
| 2:20:50 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) |
| 2:21:05 PM | JP Fraites |
| 2:22:30 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) closes |
| 2:22:40 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) introduces Traci Deen, CEO and President of Conservation Florida |
| 2:23:00 PM | Tab 2: Presentation by Traci Deen of Conservation Florida |
| 2:32:14 PM | Questions: |
| 2:32:20 PM | Sen. Bernard |
| 2:32:36 PM | Traci Deen |
| 2:33:15 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) |
| 2:33:33 PM | Traci Deen |
| 2:34:06 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) |
| 2:34:35 PM | Traci Deen |
| 2:35:05 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) closes |
| 2:35:30 PM | Tab 3: Presentation by Bryan Bradner, DEP on Florida Forever |
| 2:42:17 PM | Questions: |
| 2:42:32 PM | Sen. Bernard |
| 2:42:45 PM | Bryan Bradner |
| 2:42:48 PM | Sen. Bernard |
| 2:42:54 PM | Bryan Bradner |
| 2:43:11 PM | Sen. Grall (Vice Chair) |
| 2:44:13 PM | Bryan Bradner |
| 2:44:19 PM | Sen. Grall (Vice Chair) |
| 2:44:45 PM | Bryan Bradner |
| 2:44:55 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) |
| 2:45:09 PM | Bryan Bradner |
| 2:45:41 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) closes |
| 2:46:05 PM | Tab 4: Discussion of Member Priorities |
| 2:46:50 PM | Sen. Grall (Vice Chair) |
| 2:48:44 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) |
| 2:50:20 PM | Sen. Bernard |
| 2:51:33 PM | Sen. Burton |
| 2:53:59 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) |
| 2:54:08 PM | Chris Doolin, Rep. Smull County |
| 2:56:25 PM | Sen. Grall (Vice Chair) |
| 2:57:26 PM | Chris Doolin |
| 2:57:34 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) |
| 2:57:54 PM | Sen. Grall (Vice Chair) |
| 2:58:02 PM | Sen. Truenow (Chair) |
| 2:59:22 PM | Senator Bernard moves to adjourn |

2:59:26 PM
2:59:39 PM

Meeting Adjourned

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Meeting Date
Committee

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)