

# Programming Grant 2008 AWARDS



## 1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA

### ***“Everglades Agricultural Area Awareness Campaign”***

Staff in the southeast Florida office of 1000 Friends of Florida will be developing a substantive outreach program in 2008 that will promote and secure the commitments necessary to address the development threats to the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) in Palm Beach and Hendry Counties.



***Between Lake Okeechobee and the remaining Everglades lies the 700,000 acre Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). The EAA divides the historic hydrologic regime into two poorly connected watersheds--the Kissimmee-Okeechobee and the Everglades-Florida Bay.***

Because the EAA is a critical element of the Everglades restoration effort, 1000 Friends of Florida will assemble and coordinate a quick response team for addressing EAA proposals by public and private interests that require local, state, or federal approvals. This sub-team will work collaboratively with the Foundation’s Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to develop a well-researched and scientifically-grounded baseline of information that will ensure the delivery of consistent messages from the partner organizations. As a part of this programming, the campaign will also involve developing and coordinating the necessary “action steps” for effectively protecting the EAA.

## AUDUBON OF FLORIDA

### ***“Audubon of Florida’s Everglades Restoration Program”***

Recognizing that the greatest challenges to restoration are creating and maintaining the public and political support necessary to focus decision-makers on the actual implementation of the ecosystem restoration, Audubon of Florida’s advocacy team and staff scientists will be closely connected with all of the Foundation’s partners in developing and advancing ***The Essentials for Everglades Restoration.***

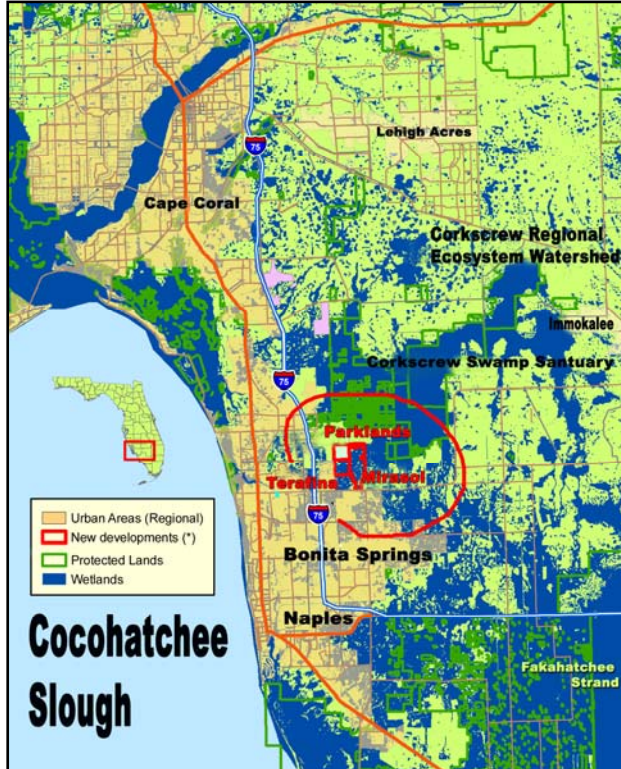
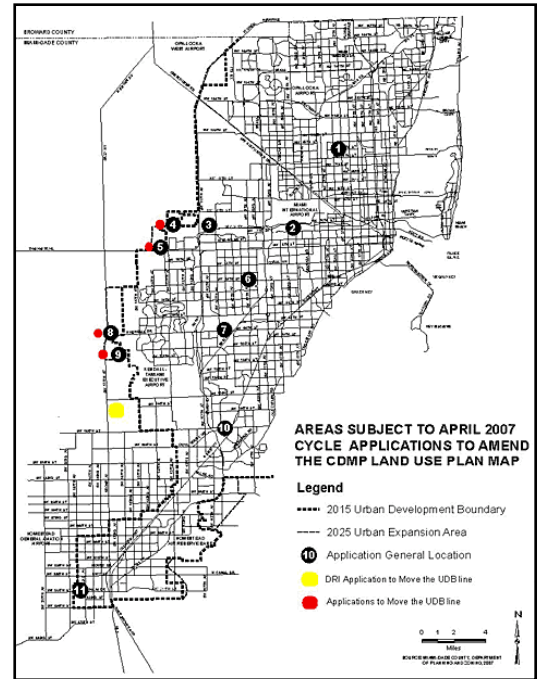
The Everglades Foundation grant represents one-fourth of the cost of Audubon of Florida’s overall Everglades restoration program and operates in seven locations--Miami, Naples, Tavernier, Orlando, Okeechobee, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C. Audubon’s policy work in 2008 will be informed by the conclusions of the Foundation’s Science Department--as well as the field work and analysis conducted by Audubon’s science staff.

## CLEAN WATER FUND

### “South Florida Everglades Organizing Project”

Clean Water Fund and its sister organization, Clean Water Action, will advance their outreach and grassroots organizing efforts along the Lower East Coast to mobilize public involvement and agency action to sustain the **Urban Development Boundary** in Miami-Dade County; rock-mining in Palm Beach County’s portion of the **Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA)** and the **Lake-Belt region** in northwest Miami-Dade County; and the proposed expansion of FPL’s **Turkey Point Nuclear Facility** in Miami-Dade County.

In 2008, Clean Water Fund will also launch a public education program for local and county governments encouraging them to earmark waste and water resources for specific pollution prevention efforts such as filtration baskets and other low-cost solutions preventing stormwater pollution.



## COLLIER COUNTY

### AUDUBON SOCIETY

#### “Western Everglades Program”

In addition to Audubon of Florida’s system-wide Everglades programming, the Collier County Audubon Society will be working specifically toward improvements in water quality and the prevention of development that undermines the greater Everglades ecosystem’s restoration in Collier, Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties—the “Western Everglades.”

Specific initiatives include rule/policy amendments for the Terafina (Saturnia Falls) and Mirasol **Developments of Regional Impact (DRI)** in the Cocohatchee Slough; protecting wetlands and other habitats by

working with local governments and major landowners to submit productive **Rural Land Stewardship** recommendations during the Florida Department of Community Affairs’ rulemaking process; and helping to develop comprehensive planning objectives in southeast Lee

**County's Density Reduction-Groundwater Resource Area (DR/GR).** Collier County Audubon's 2008 programming will also involve a campaign to change the way local, state, and federal agencies evaluate, permit, and mitigate **impacts to seasonal (short-hydroperiod) wetlands** like those found in hydric pine flatwoods; and wetlands invaded by exotic species such as melaleuca trees. Despite their seasonal functions, imperiled species like woodstorks are dependent on short and seasonal wetland features.

## CONSERVANCY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

### *"Stormwater Regulation Project"*

Staff from the Conservancy is extremely active in development issues in the Cocohatchee Slough in Southwest Florida, as well as pending stormwater management policies. 2008 programming will involve an advocacy campaign in support of **more effective state-wide stormwater treatment regulations**, while debunking the state's use of the Harper Methodology. Plans are underway to develop a technical *Florida Stormwater Best Management Practices* manual that will explain the implementation and efficiency of BMPs based on Florida-specific data. The Conservancy will also continue to provide technical expertise and advocacy support for new interim guidance and rulemaking that will create a more stringent stormwater regulatory component within the South Florida Water Management District's Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP).

## COOPERATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AREA

### *"Rapid Response Exotics Strike Team"*

The Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) is a formal partnership of the federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, individuals, and various interested groups that manage invasive species within the more than 2.5 million acres of remaining Everglades. The government agencies involved in the partnership are adept at long-range, regional efforts like controlling invasive melaleuca and Australian Pine species. But because it can often take government agencies months to get an approval and to set up the necessary contracts, the "quick-strike" quarantines and eradication strategies that are necessary to respond to an outbreak in exotic species are impossible for public agencies to address efficiently.

**The 2008 partnership grant will be used to help federal and state agencies overcome obstacles to Everglades restoration by establishing a Rapid Response Exotics Fund, and to launch an administrative assistance program for the long-term management of the Fund.** This administrative assistance will be reimbursed at a rate not to exceed 15% of the transaction costs. The Everglades Foundation will also be providing legal assistance to assure a viable legal framework, protecting the interests of the Foundation and the CISMA agencies. The expectation is that the fund would be entirely self-sustaining and will benefit long-term restoration goals.



## DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

### *"Protecting Habitat for Panthers and Other Wildlife in the Western Everglades"*

With the population of Florida panthers dwindling down to less than 100 animals, Florida panthers are now one of the most endangered species in the world. Panthers once ranged across much of the southeastern United States, but today they are restricted to one breeding population in south Florida that represents less than five percent of their historic range.

Defenders of Wildlife Everglades restoration programming will involve reviewing the **Collier County Rural Lands Stewardship Program (RLSP)**. The RLSP is the first in the state and was initiated to designate suitable locations within the county's rural areas for the long-term protection of important natural resources while maintaining the economic value of the land. This is particularly important in this part of the panther's range because entirely new towns are being created in Collier County that include new roads, subdivisions, commercial areas, and other cumulative impacts adjacent to primary and secondary panther habitat. Defenders of Wildlife staff will be involved in the five-year review of the program scheduled in 2008.

Since public acquisition and management of an appropriate habitat range for the panthers is not feasible, Defenders of Wildlife staff will **collaborate with a number of large landowners** who collectively own more than two million acres north of the Everglades-Big Cypress physiographic region. This partnership will hopefully yield a regional protection strategy that will include greater connectivity of panther habitats.



Defenders of Wildlife staff will also be working with the Florida Department of Transportation to encourage the **retrofitting of roads** to ensure that wildlife crossings and fencing are installed correctly in some of the most dangerous stretches of roads in critical wildlife habitats.

## EVERGLADES LAW CENTER

### *"Everglades-Keys Project"*

The Everglades Law Center 2008 programming grant will maintain its role as the legal arm of the Foundation's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). By ensuring legal, policy, and advocacy work toward the goals of *The Essentials of Everglades Restoration*, the Everglades Law Center will monitor local, state, regional, and federal comprehensive planning and development activities to ensure environmental permitting and policy decisions support appropriate land use and developments on lands relative to Everglades restoration.

## NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (NPCA)

### *"Everglades and Biscayne Bay Restoration Project"*

As a leader in national park issues, NPCA's unique niche benefits the broader effort to protect and restore America's Everglades. The Foundation's 2008 NPCA programming grant will fund campaigns to restore and protect the greater Everglades ecosystem to benefit both Biscayne and Everglades National Parks.

To achieve the broader goals of *The Essentials of Everglades Restoration*, NPCA staff will chair the Foundation's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Southern Everglades Team to advance the **C-111 Spreader Canal Project** towards the ultimate selection of a northern topographic canal alignment, backfilling the existing canal, acquiring at least 12,000 acres of the original footprint, and securing adequate stormwater treatment areas to provide clean water.

Since the patchy land ownership in southeast Miami-Dade County makes management a challenge for government, NPCA staff will also lead the EAC in a campaign to implement a protection and management program for the strategically important wetlands between Biscayne and Everglades National Parks. Currently called "**The Tequesta Coast**," these wetlands face threats from developers, rock mining, and the proposed nuclear plant expansion at Turkey Point.



Through their participation on the South Florida Water Management District's Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) and a host of other government working groups, NPCA staff will work with decision makers and policy staff at all levels of government to improve the restoration components of the **Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project**, to evaluate additional bridging and CERP compatibility in **ModWater and Tamiami**

**Trail** projects; and to ensure the **DECOMP** project is coordinated with ModWaters and Everglades National Park Seepage Management Projects.

NPCA staff will also provide leadership to the environmental groups within the Foundation's EAC in developing consensus for the **Guidance Memoranda and the current schedule for implementing CERP projects** that will ensure the appropriate focus on environmental priorities.

## NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

### *"Everglades Protection Project"*

NRDC staff will be working closely with the Foundation's Science Department and the partner environmental organizations within the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to ensure that the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is implemented to achieve its restoration goals. This will involve analyzing technical proposals and modeling results from government agencies, drafting position statements, conducting public records requests, and participating in relevant meetings and teleconferences. NRDC staff will also focus on monitoring the **Consumptive Use Permitting** of the South Florida Water Management District to ensure that future water use will not interfere with Everglades Restoration, along with examining the **Mod Waters, C-111 Spreader Canal Project, and the Combined Structural and Operating Plan (CSOP) projects** to ensure that authentic restoration goals are met.

## THE SIERRA CLUB

### *Sierra Club's Everglades Restoration Campaign*

With the US Army Corps of Engineers forced to reevaluate its Record of Decision for how to direct more water under the Tamiami Trail (SR 41), and new language in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), Sierra Club staff will continue galvanizing community support for the Tamiami Trail Skyway to bring the campaign to a higher level.

2008 Foundation programming grant funds will be used to expand the 36-member **Skyway Coalition**; to work toward generating support for the project within the **Miccosukee Tribe of Florida**; to capitalize on renewed interest in **economy-stimulating public works projects**; and, to use the Coalition's collective influence to educate key leaders on the critical importance of this project in **restoring the historic sheetflow** of the Everglades.



In response to multiple federal research studies identifying the need for a **Florida Panther Corridor** that will link conservation areas and key wildlife habitats in the multi-county area north and south of the Caloosahatchee River, Sierra Club staff will also be generating public demand for panther conservation by creating a close-knit coalition to stimulate broad-based outreach and wide-reaching opposition to development threats. As a part of Sierra Club's Panther Corridor programming, staff will be developing among other initiatives a "proposed corridor map" (rather than an agency imposed planning map) to initiate collaboration with private landowners, and creating a landowner "toolkit" that identifies and clarifies land acquisition alternatives.

## TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

### *"Everglades/Biscayne Bay Conservation Program"*

Tropical Audubon Society occupies a unique niche in Miami-Dade with a local constituency of some 2,500 members within the county. 2008 Programming Grant funds will be used to continue the Everglades & Biscayne Bay Conservation Program that focuses on advocacy campaigns for specific areas and issues where the social and political systems of Miami-Dade County come into direct conflict with successful Everglades restoration.

Tropical Audubon Society staff will be active in the Foundation's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) by reviewing and commenting on CERP and Acceler8 projects in Miami-Dade County; and attending and hosting public meetings. By serving on the Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team, the Miami-Dade County Climate Change Advisory Task Force, and the Everglades Coalition, Tropical Audubon Society staff and members will also provide local organization input and involvement to many of the regional, state and national collaborations.

## WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

### *"South Florida Program"*

This will be the final year of the three-year grant agreement with World Wildlife Fund to fund the South Florida Program headquartered in the Florida Keys (Florida Bay). 2008 Programming grant funds will be used primarily for Policy Development and Coalition Building, as well as Advocacy and Education programming. World Wildlife staff will be active in the Foundation's Environmental Advisory Council's (EAC) Southern Everglades Team pushing to advance restoration projects that will specifically benefit Florida Bay including the **C-111 Spreader Canal Project** and the **Mod Water-Tamiami Trail project**.

WWF staff will continue their leadership role with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council's Ecosystem Restoration Working Group (ERWG) and other public-private working groups and task forces.