



Fisheries
& Habitat
Conservation



Key Partners:

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- South Florida Water Management District
- National Park Service
- U.S. Geological Survey

Removal of exotic Australian Pine in South Florida, including burning pyre, below. USFWS photos.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

Celebrating Habitat in Florida

- The Lake Apopka Natural Resource Damage Assessment and restoration provided the acquisition and appropriate management of the Matanzas Marsh Property, a 16,000-acre conservation area that is home to the second largest breeding colony of wood storks in northeast Florida.
- The Environmental Contaminants Program, housed in Panama City, Jacksonville, and Vero Beach, conducts investigations on the effects of lead, mercury, copper, and pesticides on wildlife in the Everglades. The program performed 813 Clean Water Act Reviews from 2002 to 2004, and is active in pest management.
- The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has engaged in 23 habitat improvement projects, with 3,787 acres of habitat improved in 2004.
- The Coastal Program citizen-centered conservation activities of the South Florida/ Everglades Coastal Program and the offices of the Florida Gulf Coastal Program have contributed over one million dollars in partnership efforts towards the eradication of invasive species in the State of Florida.
- Through numerous partnership efforts involving State and Federal agencies, local governments, industry, and private citizens and landowners, over 20,000 acres of native coastal habitat has been protected, enhanced or restored. These habitats include coastal uplands and wetlands including seagrass meadows, oyster and coral reefs, saltmarsh and flats, dunes, maritime forest, freshwater marshes, coastal lakes and swamps.
- In Florida during FY 04 & FY 05 Fish and Wildlife Management is working with partners to remove or bypass 2 fish passage barriers in interjurisdictional water to open 2 miles of stream habitats and 26 acres of a coastal dune lake benefiting at least 30 listed and recreational species.
- At the request of the State conservation agencies (FL, GA, AL), the Panama City Field Office (Ecological Services and Fisheries) help to craft dam operation procedures with the Corps of Engineers to benefit both riverine and reservoir fish spawning.
- The National Fish Hatchery System stocks more than 1.5 million fish annually to support anadromous fish restoration in the coastal rivers of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.
- Invasive exotic species were eradicated from 4 acres of the Barefoot Beach Preserve which is home to numerous migratory birds and nesting sea turtles. The site will serve as a demonstration area to raise public awareness of invasive species.
- The Aquatic Nuisance Species Program initiated development of a study plan to survey, monitor, and remove swamp eels from water management canal C-111 using electrofishing techniques. The Homestead population of Asian rice (swamp) eel is currently found in three South Florida Water Management District canals.

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Healthy Fish and Wildlife ~ ~ Healthy Habitat ~ ~ Healthy People ~ ~ Healthy Economy