

# U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

## U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Natural Resources Conservation Service

### *A Partnership Success Story*

September 17, 2014



US Army Corps of Engineers  
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# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

## Cynthia Wood

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Institute for Water Resources,  
Partnership Liaison

## David Heffington



Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
National Water Management Center,  
Partnership Liaison



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# NRCS/USACE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT RENEWED 2011

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
AND THE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (CIVIL WORKS)**

**Purpose:** To promote a long-term working relationship between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (OASA (CW)) on collaborative efforts to improve the management of water and related natural resources under the missions and authorities of NRCS and the Department of the Army (DA) Civil Works mission through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

**Goals:** NRCS and OASA (CW) have established the following partnership goals:

- To express mutual commitment to comprehensive water management and related natural resources conservation in support of Executive Order 13352, Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation.
- To create and support a national team to review existing authorities and programs, identify areas of mutual concern and need for increased collaboration, and support implementation of actions identified for:
  - 1) Watershed Planning and Implementation,
  - 2) Wetland Creation, Restoration, and Enhancement, including Coastal Restoration,
  - 3) Recovery from Disasters Impacting Natural Resources, including Restoration
  - 4) Water Quality Improvements, Water Supply Development and Water Management,
  - 5) Coordination of other programs and activities including Wetland Conservation Compliance (Swampbuster) and Regulatory Programs (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act), and


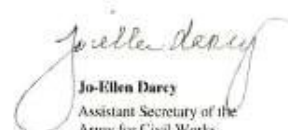
6) Coordination of programs and activities that promote the wise use of floodplains including participation in the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force.

- To support and encourage the establishment of Project Field Implementation Teams to serve as pilot projects for implementing innovations, removing impediments to the NRCS/USACE partnership, and engaging and supporting local leadership in solving water and related natural resources problems on specific projects.

**Implementation:** We commit to achieve our goals by fostering a spirit of teamwork between our organizations at all levels. We will meet in partnering sessions as needed, but at least semi-annually, to ensure that we are achieving our goals. This partnership agreement does not commit either the NRCS or USACE to fund particular initiatives, as funding commitments must be addressed pursuant to a more formal document.

**Effective Date:** This agreement is effective when signed by both parties and should be reviewed annually to renew our commitment and consider needed changes.

United States Department of Agriculture      United States Department of the Army

**Dave White**  
Chief  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Jo-Ellen Darcy**  
Assistant Secretary of the  
Army for Civil Works

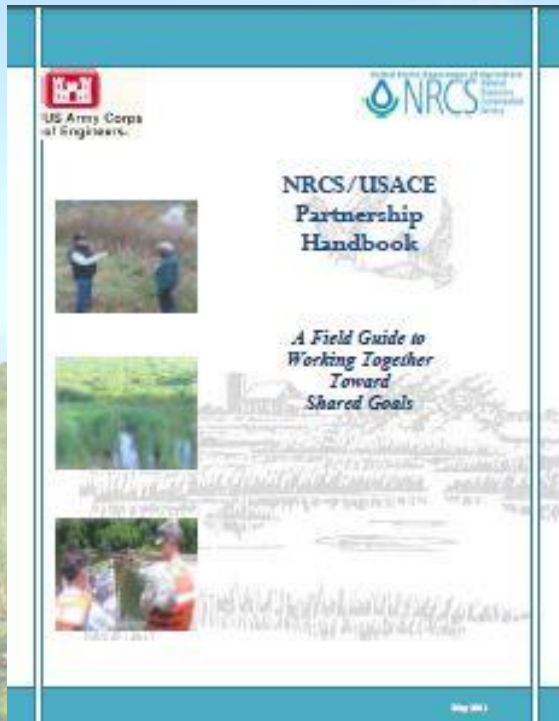
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# NRCS/USACE PARTNERSHIP HANDBOOK



**USACE Partnership Webpage:**

<http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/About/Partnerships/FederalAgencyPartnerships/NaturalResourcesConservationService.aspx>

**NRCS Partnership Webpage:**

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/nwmc/?cid=nrcs143\\_014960](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/nwmc/?cid=nrcs143_014960)



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# PRESENTERS

## **Karl Nixon**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Real Estate

## **Roney Gutierrez**

Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
Assistant State Conservationist for Easements

## **Emilio Gonzalez**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Project Manager



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# AGENDA

- **History - Panther Project**
- **Partnership**



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (CORPS) and  
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- **Jacksonville Districts Assistance with NRCS**
  - Wetland Reserve Program
  - Technical Assistance
  - Restoration Assistance



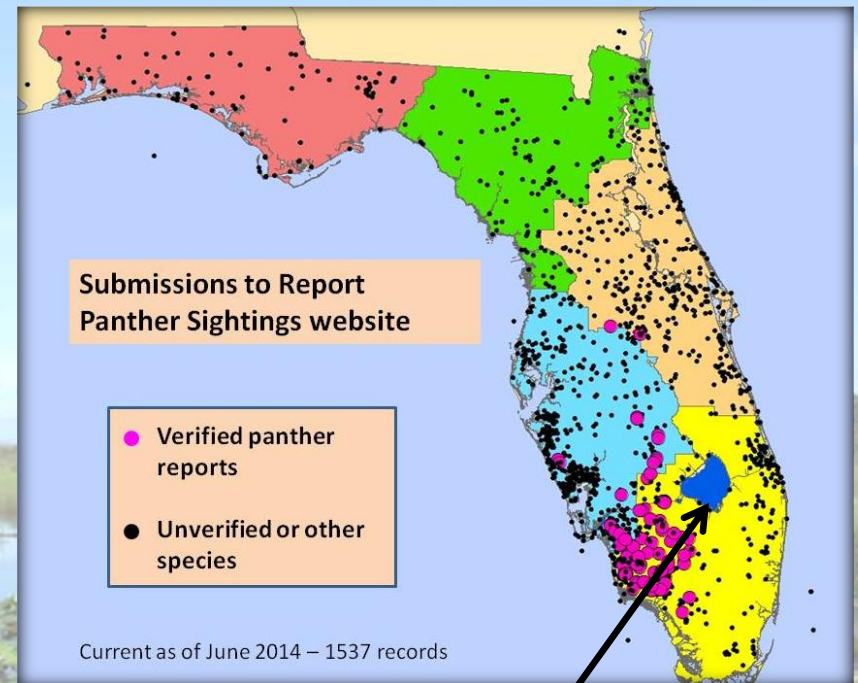
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# PANTHER STORY

Presenter, Karl Nixon

- In the Beginning.....
- The Team
- Business Process and “No Net Loss” Alternative



C-43 Canal



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# AMERICAN PRIME MAP

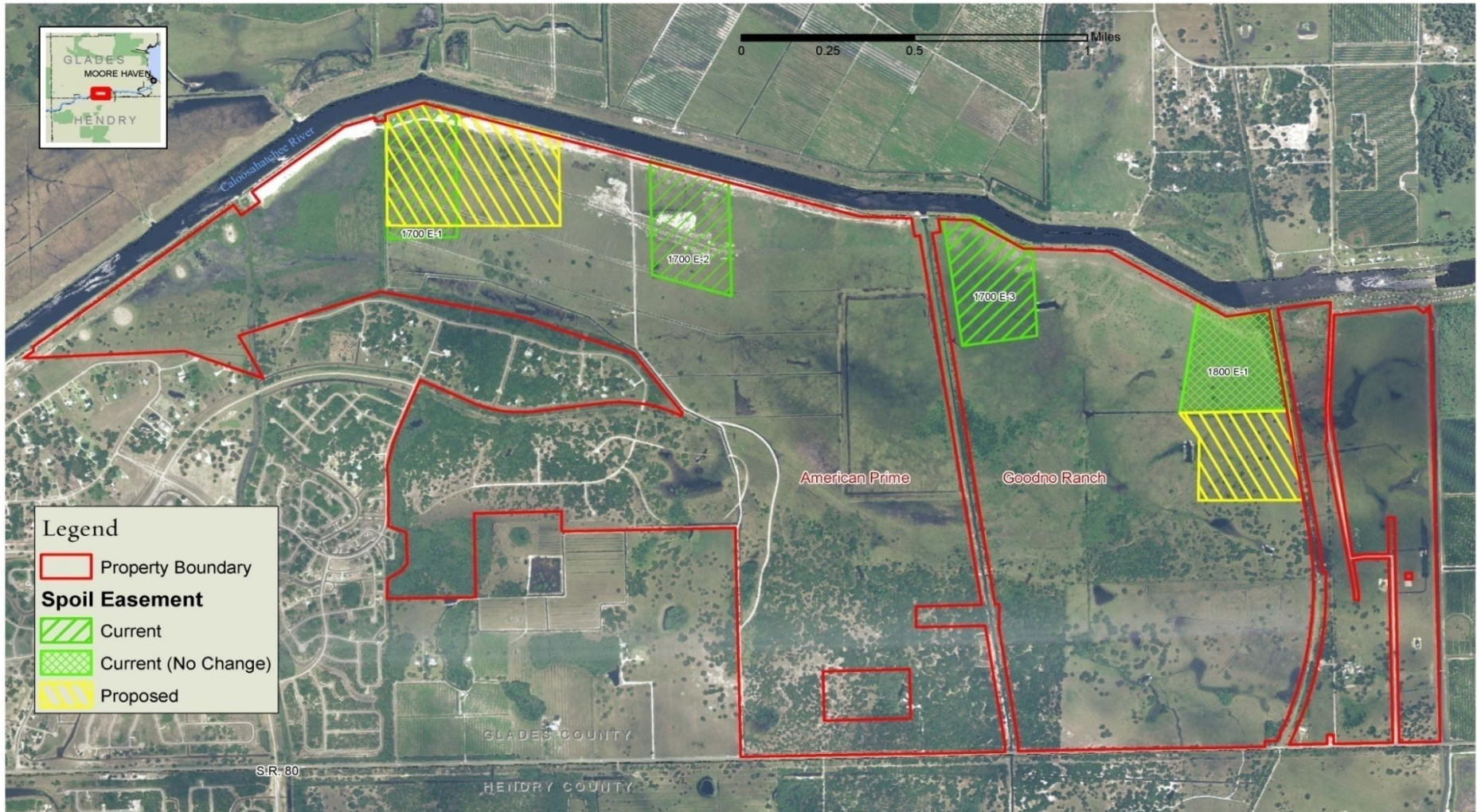
Presenter, Karl Nixon



American Prime and Goodno Ranch, Glades County, Florida  
Spoil Easement Exchange Options - June 13, 2011



Prepared 6/2/2011, rev. 6/13/2011  
P. Royston, FL Chapter Office  
file: c:\projects\Ranchlands\AmPrime\Am  
AmPrimeGoodno spoil ease options  
Tracts FL DOR, TNC, Easements: TNC,  
Imagery: USDA NRCS NAIP 2010 aerial



**Legend**

- Property Boundary
- Spoil Easement**
- Current
- Current (No Change)
- Proposed



# THE PARTNERSHIP GROWS

Presenter, Karl Nixon



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# CORPS & NRCS PARTNERSHIP

Presenter, Roney Gutierrez



## Wetland Reserve Program



## Technical Assistance



## Restoration Assistance

WCS-5 – Post treatment



WCS-5 – Prior to treatment



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# AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS (WRE)

Presenter, Roney Gutierrez

- WRE acquisition funding is provided directly to landowners for a wetland reserve easement.
- Restoration funds are used by NRCS to restore and enhance wetlands, to improve habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, improve water quality, reduce flood damage and encourage outdoor education and recreation.
- NRCS's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) involves returning a wetland easement back to its former pre-agricultural state



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# CORPS AND NRCS AGREEMENT

Presenter, Emilio Gonzalez

## MOA – December 2005

## Support Agreement – ENG 4914-R

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND  
THE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**ARTICLE I - PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY**

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is entered into by and between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) (collectively "parties") for the purpose of establishing a framework governing the respective responsibilities for the provision of goods and services as described in Article II below. This MOA and any Support Agreement (SA) pursuant to this MOA is entered into pursuant to the Economy in Government Act (31 U.S.C. § 1535).

**ARTICLE II - SCOPE**

a. Goods and services that the Corps may provide under this MOA include planning, design, construction, flood damage reduction, environmental restoration, research and development, emergency management, disaster assistance, hazardous or toxic materials removal, engineering or technical assistance, training and professional development, and such other related goods or services as may be agreed upon in the future.

b. Goods and services which USDA may provide under this MOA include water supply management, dam safety, hydropower, fish and wildlife, ecosystem restoration, recreation, emergency management, disaster assistance, training and professional development, and such other related goods or services as may be agreed upon in the future.

c. Nothing in this MOA shall be construed to require either party to use the other party or to require either party to provide any goods or services to the other party, except as may be set forth in SAs.

**ARTICLE III - INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

To provide for consistent and effective communication between the Corps and USDA, each party shall appoint a Principal Representative to serve as its central point of contact on matters relating to this MOA. Additional representatives may also be appointed to serve as points of contact on SAs.

**ARTICLE IV - SUPPORT AGREEMENTS**

a. In response to requests from one party (the "Ordering Agency") for the other party's (the "Servicing Agency") goods and services, the parties will develop mutually agreed upon

1

<b>U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS INTERAGENCY/SUPPORT AGREEMENT (ER 1140-1-211)</b>		1. AGREEMENT NO.	
		2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INITIAL AGREEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT NO. _____	
3. PROJECT TITLE USDA, NRCS Restoration Assistance Agreement		4. EFFECTIVE DATE 4/15/2013	
		5. COMPLETION DATE 9/15/2015	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF USACE ORGANIZATION Jacksonville District USACE 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32207		7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF OTHER AGENCY NRCS Florida State Office 2614 NW 43rd Street Gainesville, FL 32606	
8. SCOPE OF WORK (Additional pages may be used as needed) See attached Restoration Assistance Scope of Work document.			
9. SPECIAL PROVISIONS (Additional pages may be used as needed) See attached Special Provisions document.			
		FUNDS AVAILABLE <i>[Signature]</i> DATE <u>1/8/13</u> YR/FUND <u>NR 61- NRCS 12-0000-13 NRCS</u> BOC <u>3212</u> <u>75,000,000.00</u> <i>[Signature]</i>	
10. USACE PROJECT OFFICER Emilio Gonzalez	TELEPHONE 904-232-1108	11. OTHER AGENCY PROJECT OFFICER Crenel Francis	TELEPHONE 352-338-9508
ADDRESS 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32207		ADDRESS NRCS Florida State Office 2614 NW 43rd Street	

ENG FORM 4914-R, Sep 97

EDITION OF JAN 88 IS OBSOLETE.

(Proprietary)



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# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Presenter, Emilio Gonzalez

- WRP Development,
- FY-13 Contracts, FY-14 Contracts and In-House
- Permit Environmental compliance, Contracts and In-House,
- Surveys, Contract and in-house



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# RESTORATION ASSISTANCE

Presenter, Emilio Gonzalez



- Invasive Control,
- Structural Assessment,
- Supervision & Administration, Engineering During Construction for NRCS contracts,
- COE/DEP Permits, Agent to NRCS,
- Phase I, HTRW work,
- Phase II, Scope of Work Development,
- Remedial Work,
- Boundary and Topographic Surveying,
- NOVA UAV Program (Invasive Species mapping, monitoring & environmental analysis).



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# THANK YOU!



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# CONTACTS

USACE Partnership Liaison

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NRCS Partnership Liaison

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**[David.Heffington@usda.gov](mailto:David.Heffington@usda.gov)**

USACE Jacksonville District

**Karl Nixon (Real Estate) 904-232-2339**

**[Karl.J.Nixon@usace.army.mil](mailto:Karl.J.Nixon@usace.army.mil)**

**Jessica Weatherby (Project Manager) 904-232-2178**

**[Jessica.A.Weatherby@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jessica.A.Weatherby@usace.army.mil)**

NRCS Gainesville Office (Assistant State Conservationist for Easements)

**Roney Gutierrez 352-338-9502**

**[Roney.Gutierrez@usda.gov](mailto:Roney.Gutierrez@usda.gov)**



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