



Saving **Florida's**
Last Great Places

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is **to preserve** the plants, animals and natural communities that represent **the diversity of life on Earth** by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.



For more than
50 years,
the Conservancy
has protected our
natural areas.

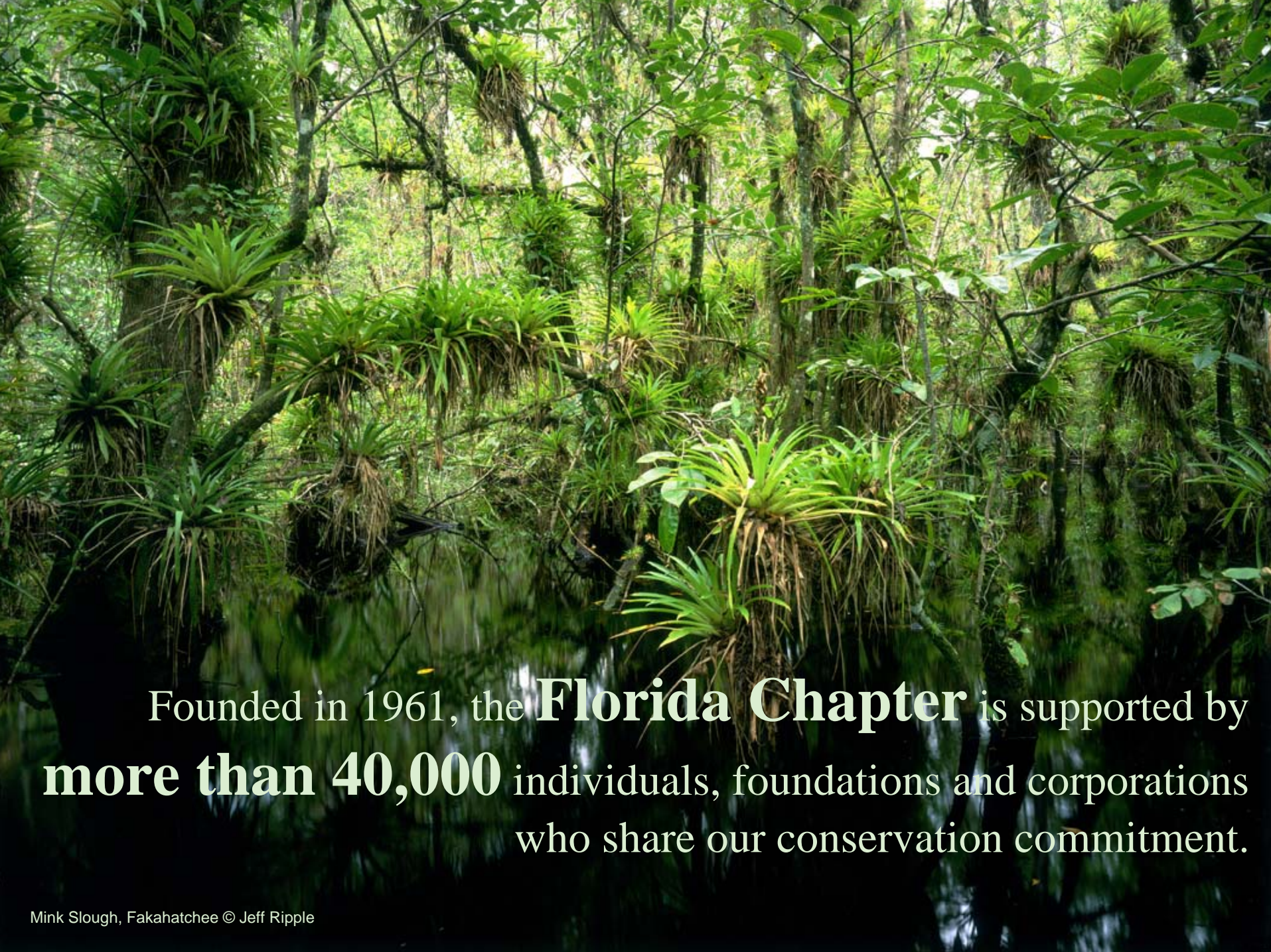


Our **1 million** members have helped us protect important conservation areas in **28 countries**.



We own and manage **1,400 preserves** —
the **largest system** of private nature sanctuaries in the world.



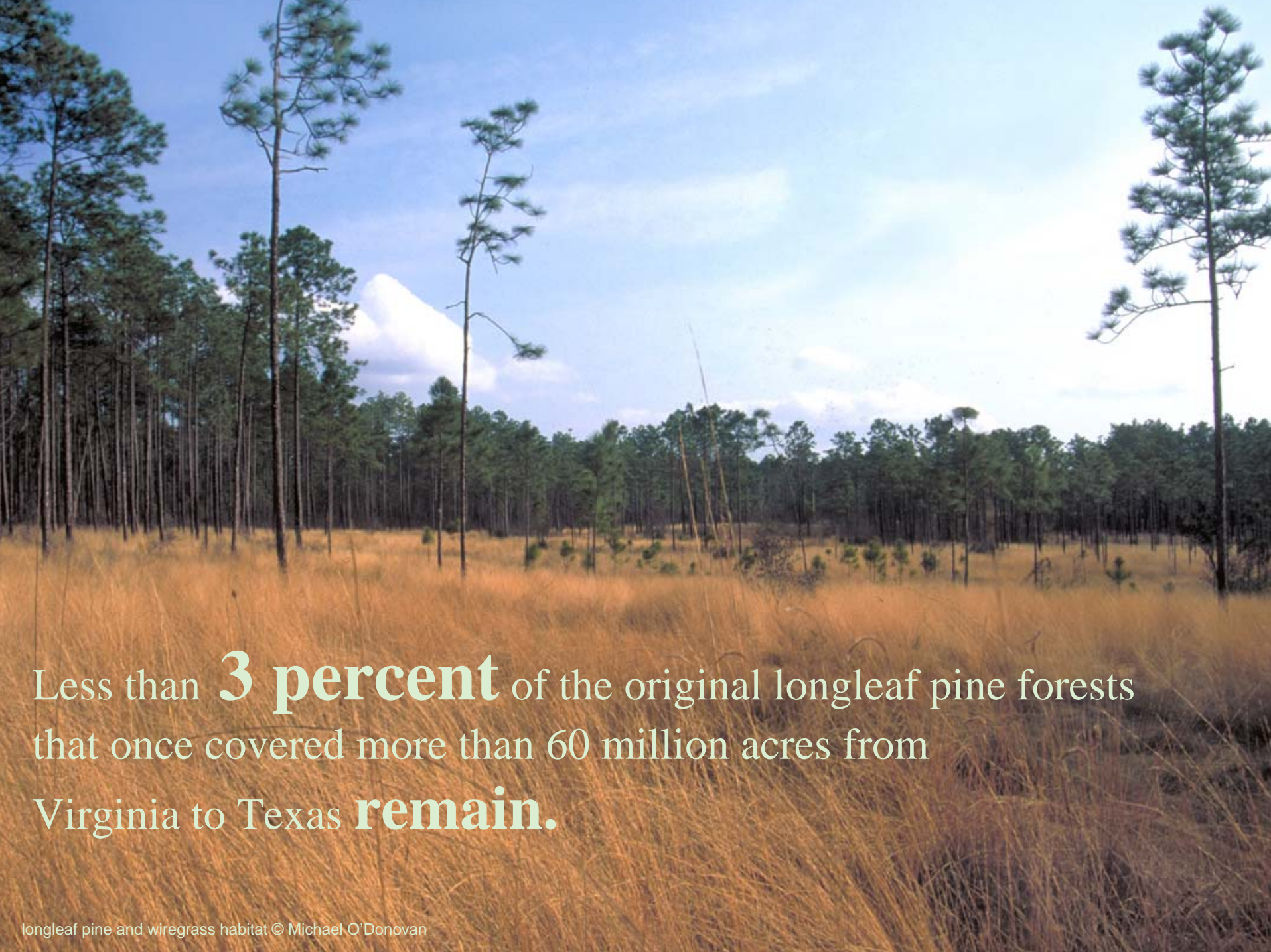


Founded in 1961, the **Florida Chapter** is supported by **more than 40,000** individuals, foundations and corporations who share our conservation commitment.

Lands and waters today are being **altered** in ways that **threaten** plants, animals and our **way of life**.



In Florida, **habitat loss** due to rapid development and the spread of invasive, non-native species are among the **leading threats** to our natural lands.



Less than **3 percent** of the original longleaf pine forests that once covered more than 60 million acres from Virginia to Texas **remain.**

The Apalachicola is the state's **largest river** and one of the last free-flowing systems in the **country**.



Now the river is considered among the most **endangered** in the United States.

On Florida's Lake Wales Ridge,
more than **80 percent** of the original ecosystem
has been developed or converted to agriculture.



Living in this landscape is the **Florida scrub-jay**,
the state's only **endemic** bird.



90 percent of the jays that originally inhabited Florida
are gone.

In south Florida, changes in water flows, population growth and invasive species have **deteriorated the health** of the Everglades system and Florida Bay.



While it seems that every day Floridians are faced with
alarming environmental statistics such as these,
there are reasons for hope.





With a far-reaching **conservation vision**
and the commitment of individuals, foundations and
corporate supporters,

The Nature Conservancy has protected
117 million acres around the world.



Since 1961, the Florida Chapter
has helped protect more than
1.1 million acres
of natural lands.

In Florida, the Conservancy focuses its **conservation efforts** in **10 areas** where species are highly concentrated and threatened.





the largest remaining
stands of longleaf
pine forest

in the world



an **unprecedented partnership**
of military, government and
nonprofit organizations



the most **unspoiled** coastal river
and estuarine system



more than **40,000 acres** protected



the headwaters
of the **Everglades**



peninsular Florida's **oldest**
and **highest** landmass



home to the state's **largest**
concentration of springs



mangrove, salt marsh and sea grass habitats are among the most **productive** on Earth



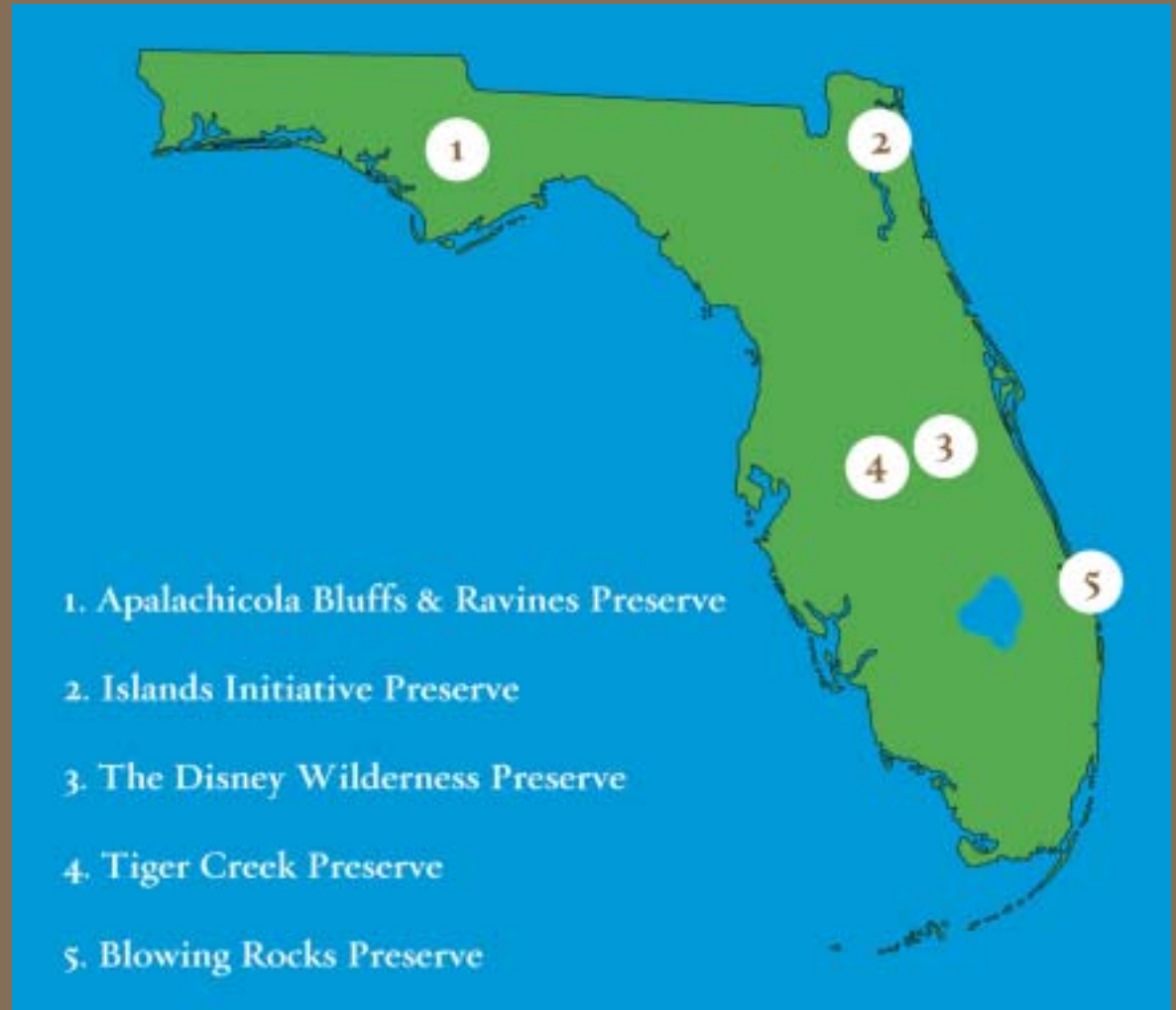
rich in history and **wildlife**



the Conservancy has helped protect more than
73,000 acres in this region



The Florida Chapter owns and manages nearly **43,000 acres**, including **five preserves** that are open to the public.



Science **guides** our work.

By identifying the most important natural places
and using innovative tools, **we protect and restore**
critical places in Florida and around the world.





Prescribed fire is a land management tool
the Conservancy uses to
restore and manage Florida's native habitats.

We achieve lasting results by finding
common ground
with communities and partners.



As part of a **multi-partner task force**,
the **Conservancy** advocated the creation of legislation



that will **protect** the springs and wildlife
on the **Wekiva River** and basin
from **unsustainable development**.

A wooden canoe is positioned on a calm river, partially on a sandy bank. The water is misty, and the background is filled with lush green trees under a clear blue sky. The scene is peaceful and scenic.

Working in **collaboration** with private
and public partners, the Conservancy
has protected more than **80,000 acres**
in **northeast Florida**.

Established in 1992, The Disney Wilderness Preserve is an **innovative approach** to mitigation, involving the **cooperative efforts** of multiple partners.



At **Blowing Rocks Preserve**,
the Conservancy is educating
preserve visitors about the
importance of the
156-mile Indian River Lagoon
and ways to **protect it**.



In southwest Florida, the Conservancy has protected
nearly **15,000 acres** in partnership with
Sarasota County.



A photograph of a sunset over a field of tall grasses. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The grasses are silhouetted against the bright sky, and a central plant with small flowers is in sharp focus. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

Working **together**, we can ensure Florida's last great places
are protected **now and for future generations.**

Florida's last great places
need **your help**,
and there is **still time**
to save them.



For more information,
contact (407) 682-3664
or visit nature.org/florida.



Big Cypress National Preserve © Jeff Ripple

*The Nature
Conservancy*®



SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH