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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.
Facilitating Partnerships

• Our mission is to achieve voluntary habitat conservation by providing technical and financial assistance, in collaboration with partners, for the benefit of Federal trust species.

• Partners program - [https://www.fws.gov/partners/](https://www.fws.gov/partners/)
  – custom-designed to meet private landowners’ needs

• Coastal Program - [https://www.fws.gov/coastal/](https://www.fws.gov/coastal/)
  – ability to work on public and private lands and with a diversity of partners
Coastal Program

• We depend on
  – the intimate knowledge of the natural resource issues and conservation challenges in local communities
  – development of long-term partnerships

• We focus on
  – landscape-scale conservation planning
  – on-the-ground coastal habitat conservation
  – benefits to federal trust and other priority species, primarily threatened and endangered species
Process

• Work with local CP coordinator
• Develop project proposals (2 pages!)
• Submit → January
• Awarded → June
• Funds → October
• $10,000 – $70,000
Project Rankings

• Creating coastal ecosystems that are resilient and adaptive to climate change impacts.

• Using science-based conservation design at a landscape scale that supports habitat connectivity and ecological integrity.

• Benefitting the conservation and recovery of federal trust species and other priority species.

• Building conservation partnerships that leverage resources and promote community stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.
Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges

A Community-based Approach to Landscape Conservation Partnerships
Landscape conversion: forests to fields; dark green to lighter colors.
Florida's Big Bend Region

Springs
Refuge Priorities:

**Develop a conservation partnership network** to support and sustains *natural resource-based economies and local cultural heritage*.

**Work with private partners and communities** to conserve working lands and waters, and ecosystem services and biodiversity, for present and future generations.

**Axioms:**
- The Refuges as a natural laboratory.
- No. 1 Tool - *Conservation Easements* on working lands: farms, ranches, and commercial forests for landscape-scale preservation.
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