

The Florida Panther: A Story of Conflict, Connections and Coexistence



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Endangered – US Endangered Species Act of 1973

Population estimate in 1970s = 12-20

Genetic reinvigoration program 1995

Population estimate today = 100-180



Florida's panther story

Figure prepared by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Once upon a time....



Sustainable coexistence?

Little or no management



Abundant

Over-exploited

Rare

More numerous

Conflict management

Rebounding

Recovery management



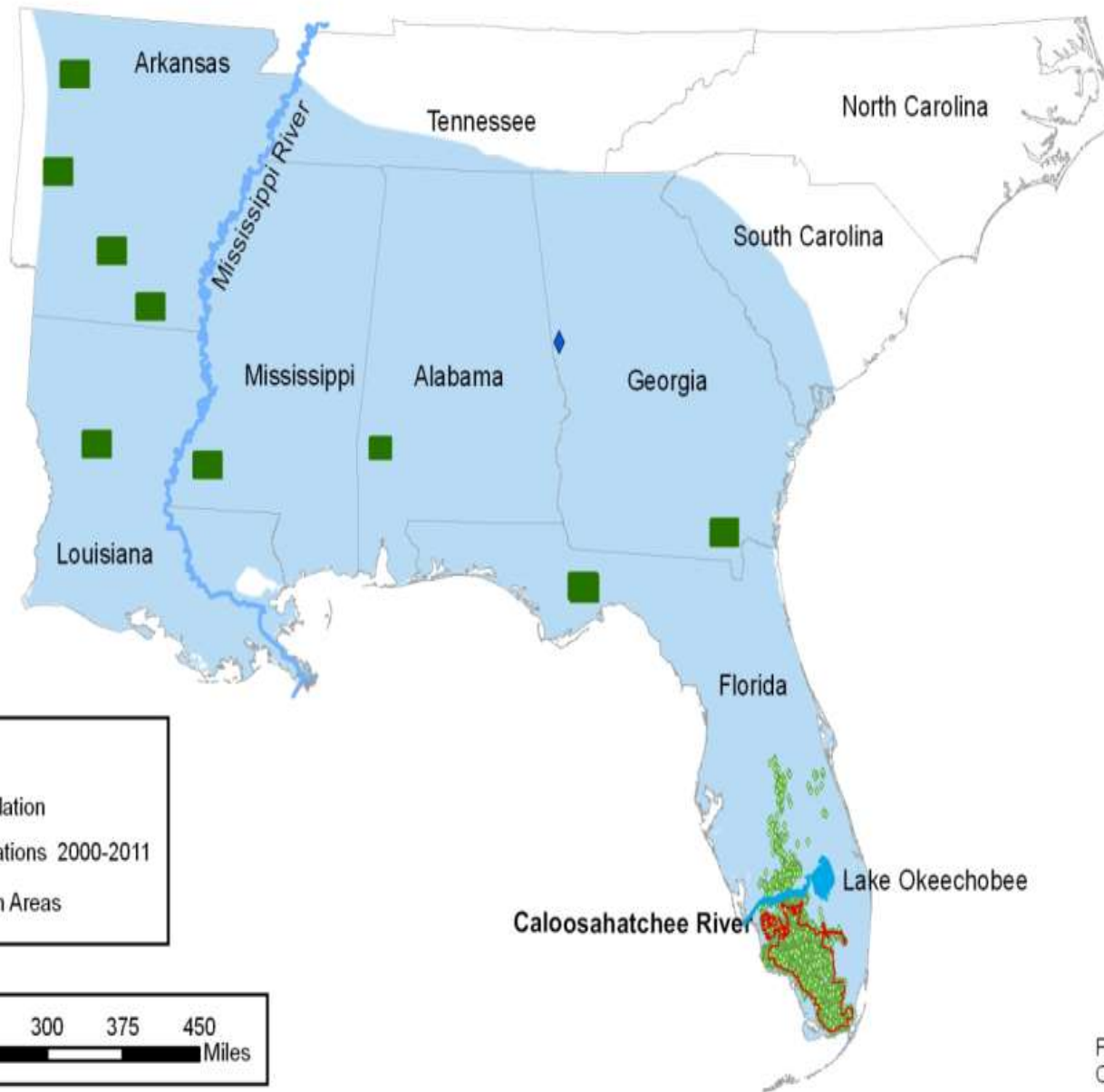
Photo Credit: Cory, Charles B. *Hunting and Fishing in Florida*. New York: Arno Press 1970



Range of Florida Panther

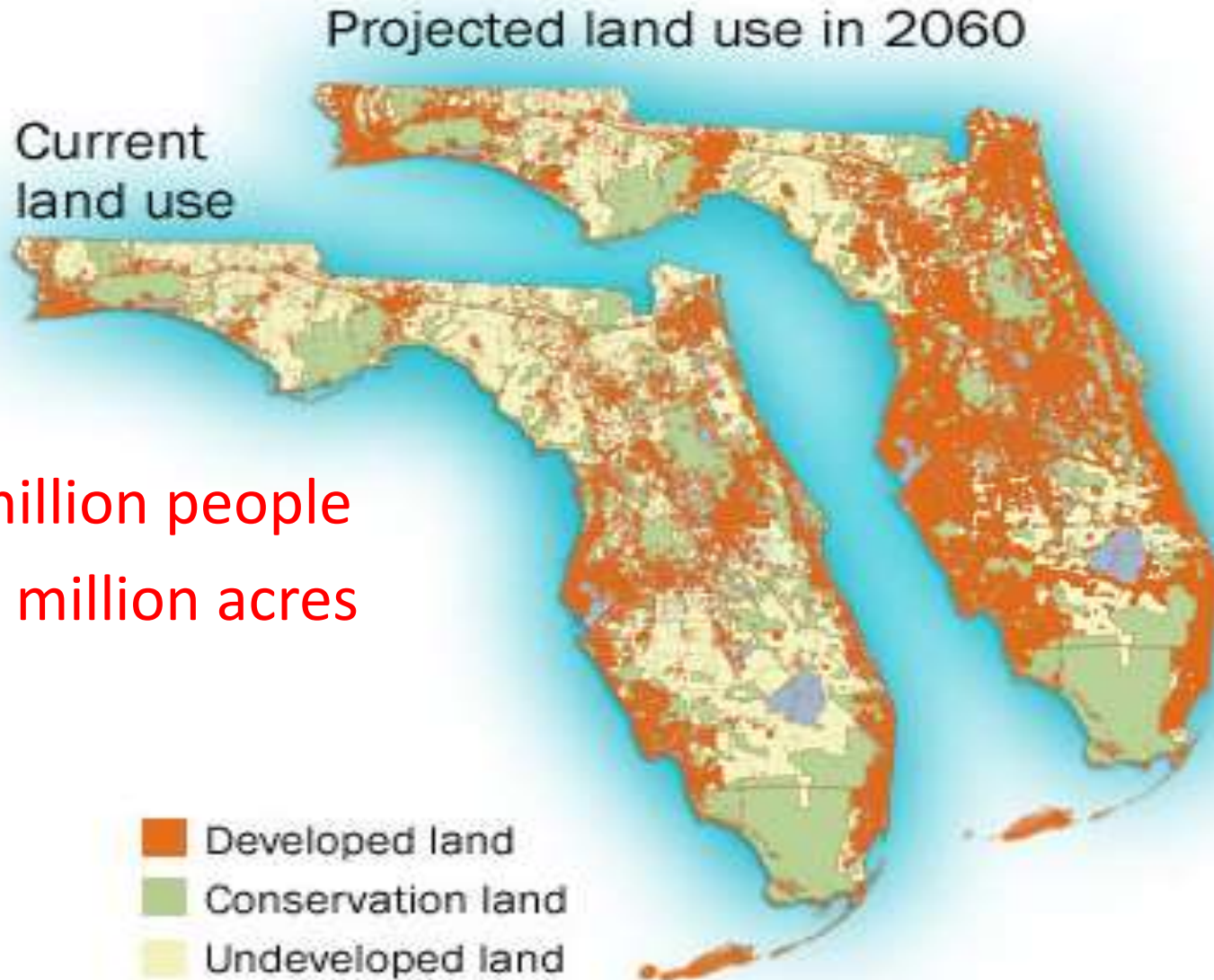


Panther Range - Past, Present, and Potential



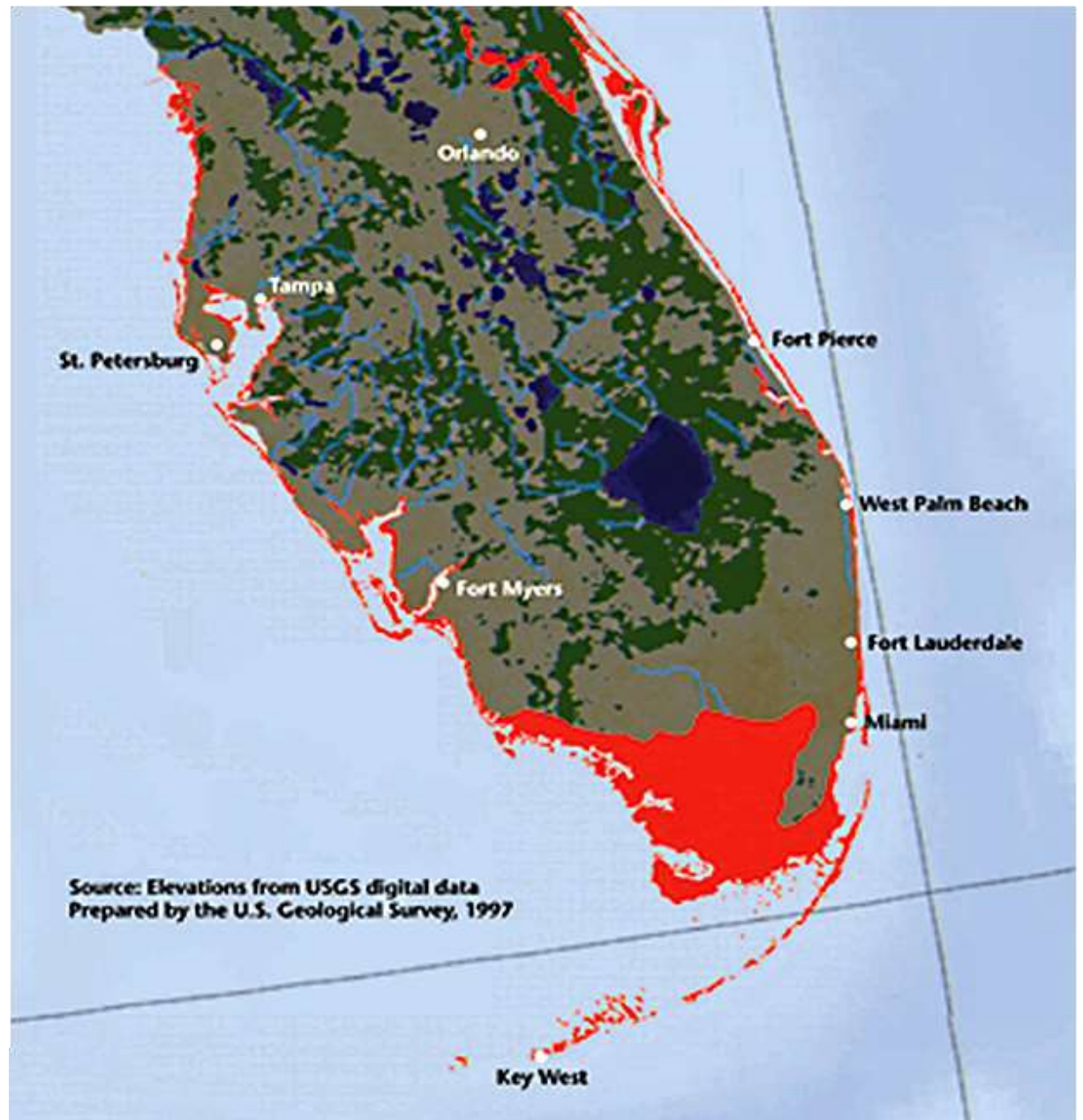


Florida now and future...



- 19 million people
- 34.7 million acres

3 Foot Sea Level Rise



Chances of successful recovery will be the greatest if the panther is able to travel north on its own and resettle its historic home.



- * Core habitat
- * Connectivity
- * Coexistence



Conservation of Core and Corridor Habitat Habitat Protection at the Landscape Level

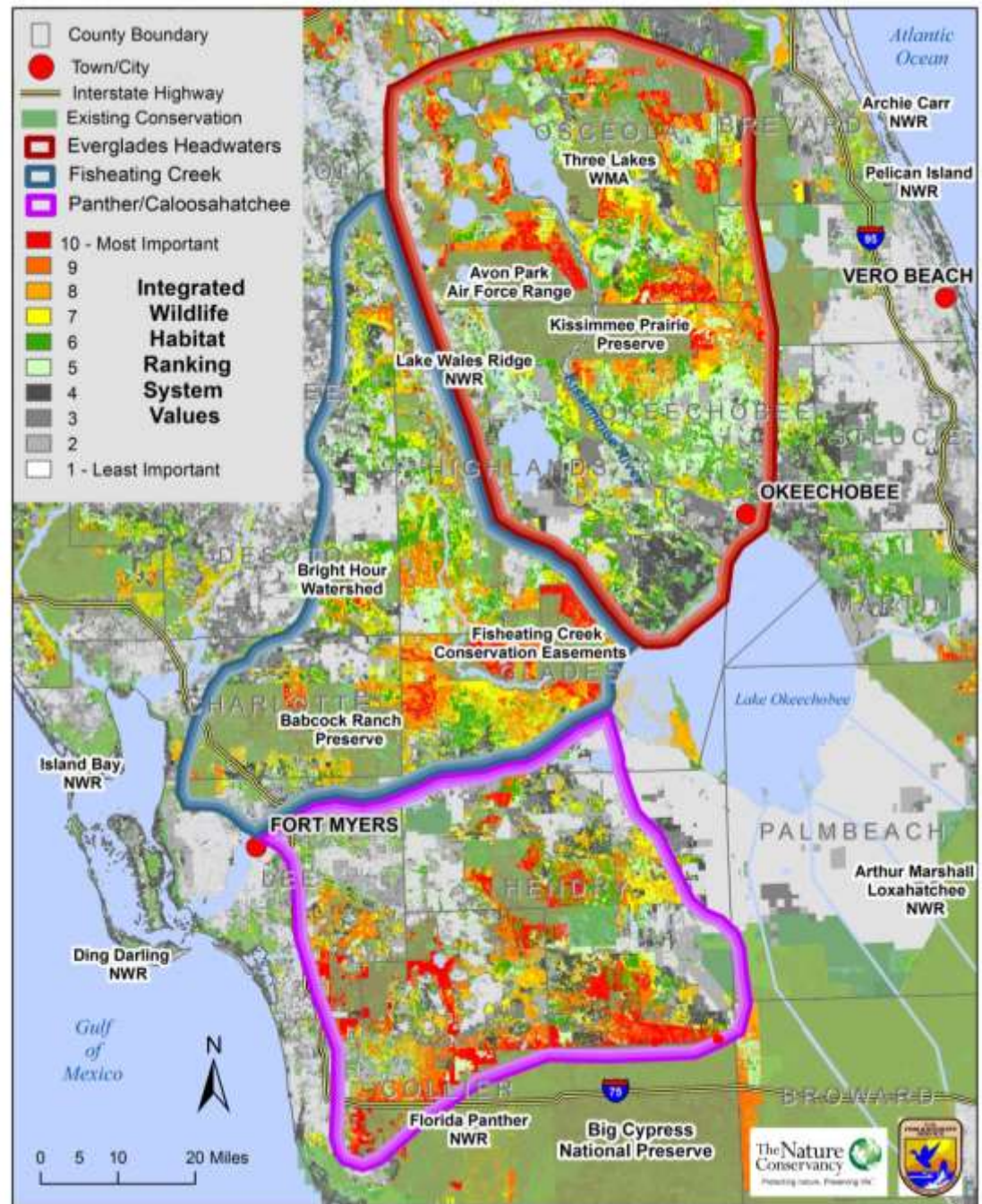




Amendment 1 – Florida’s Water and Land Legacy
State Constitutional Amendment
Vote November 4th, 2014



Greater Everglades Refuge Planning Areas



Connectivity: Corridors, Linkages, Networks





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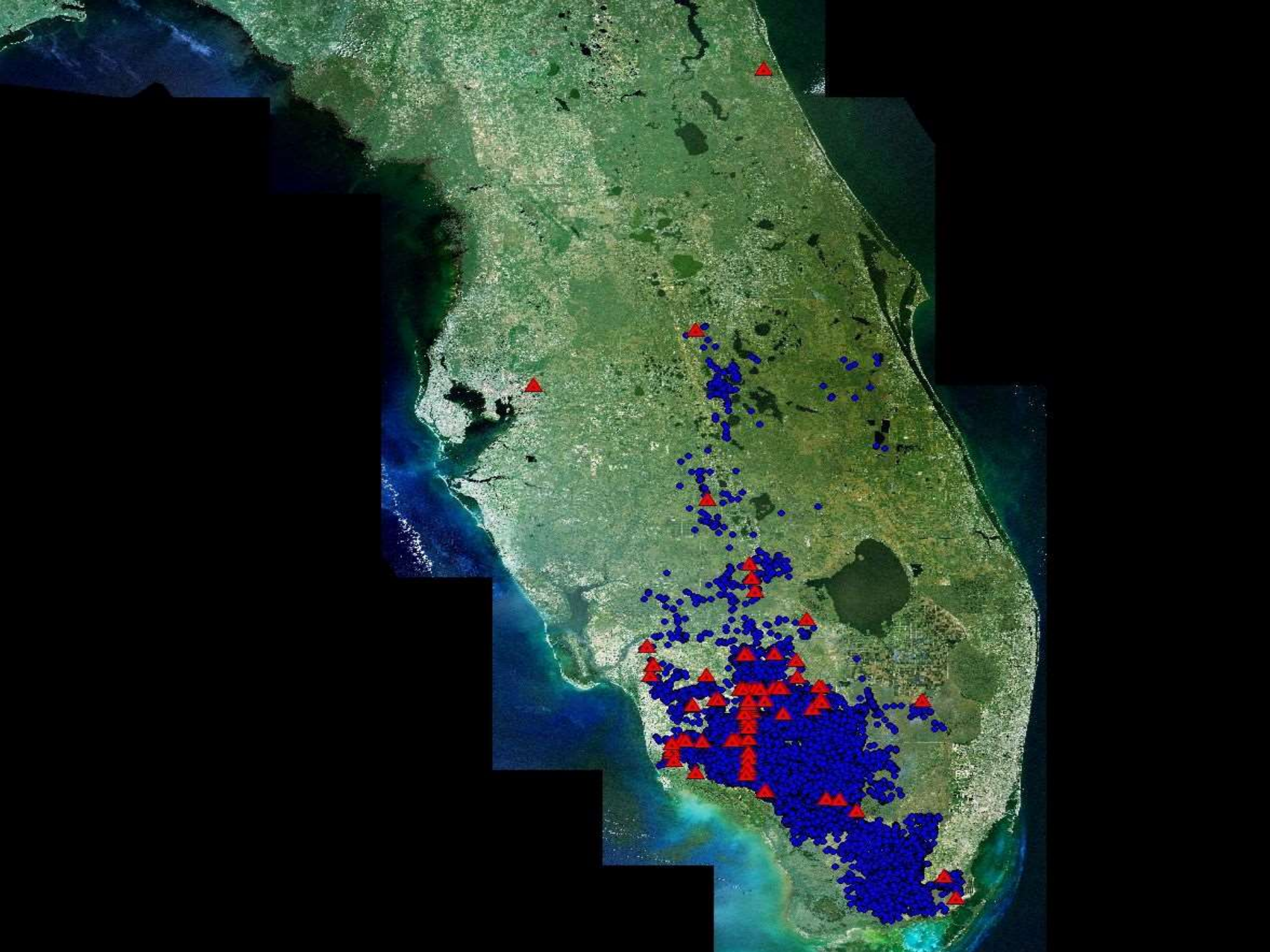


Florida Black Bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*)

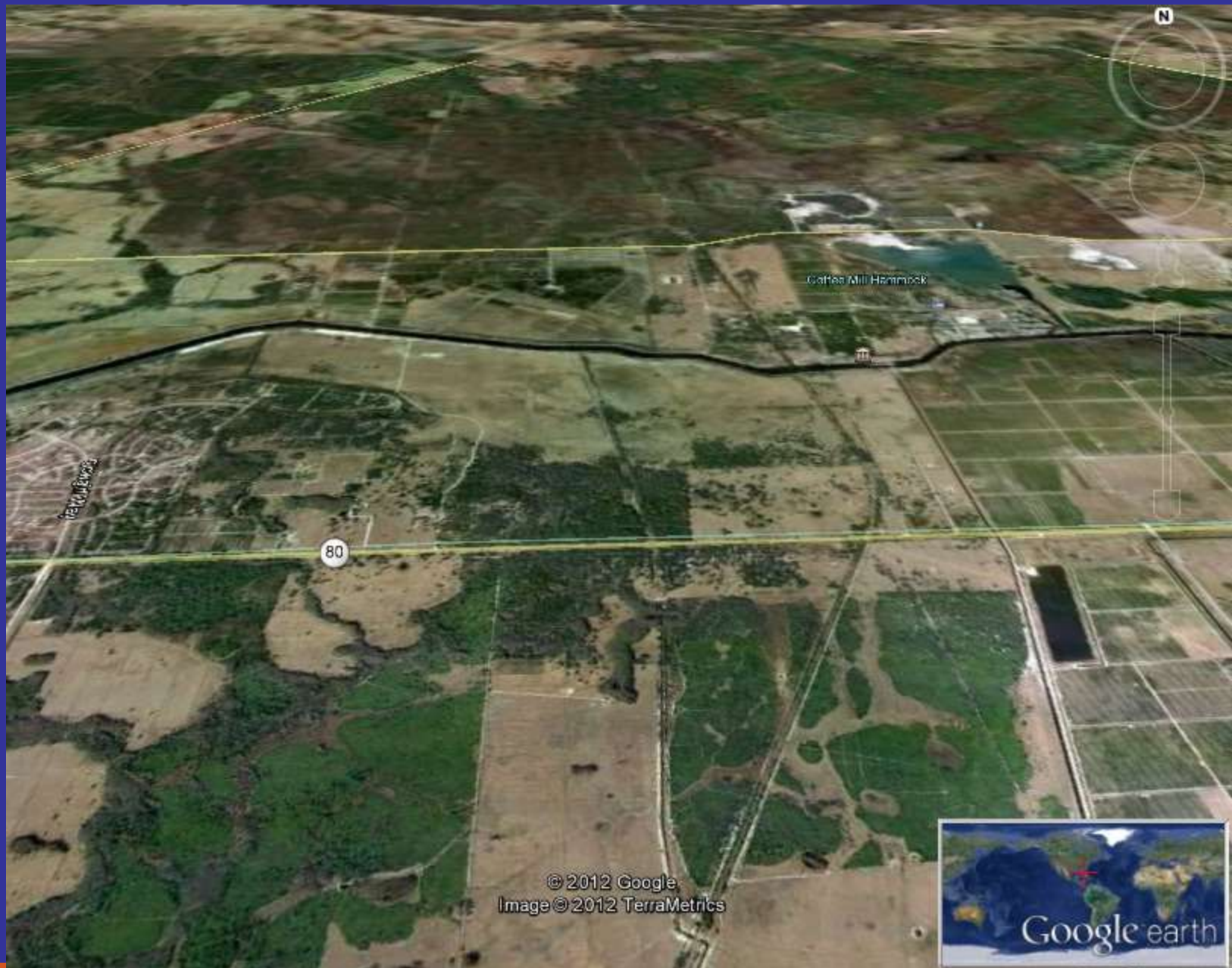


American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*)



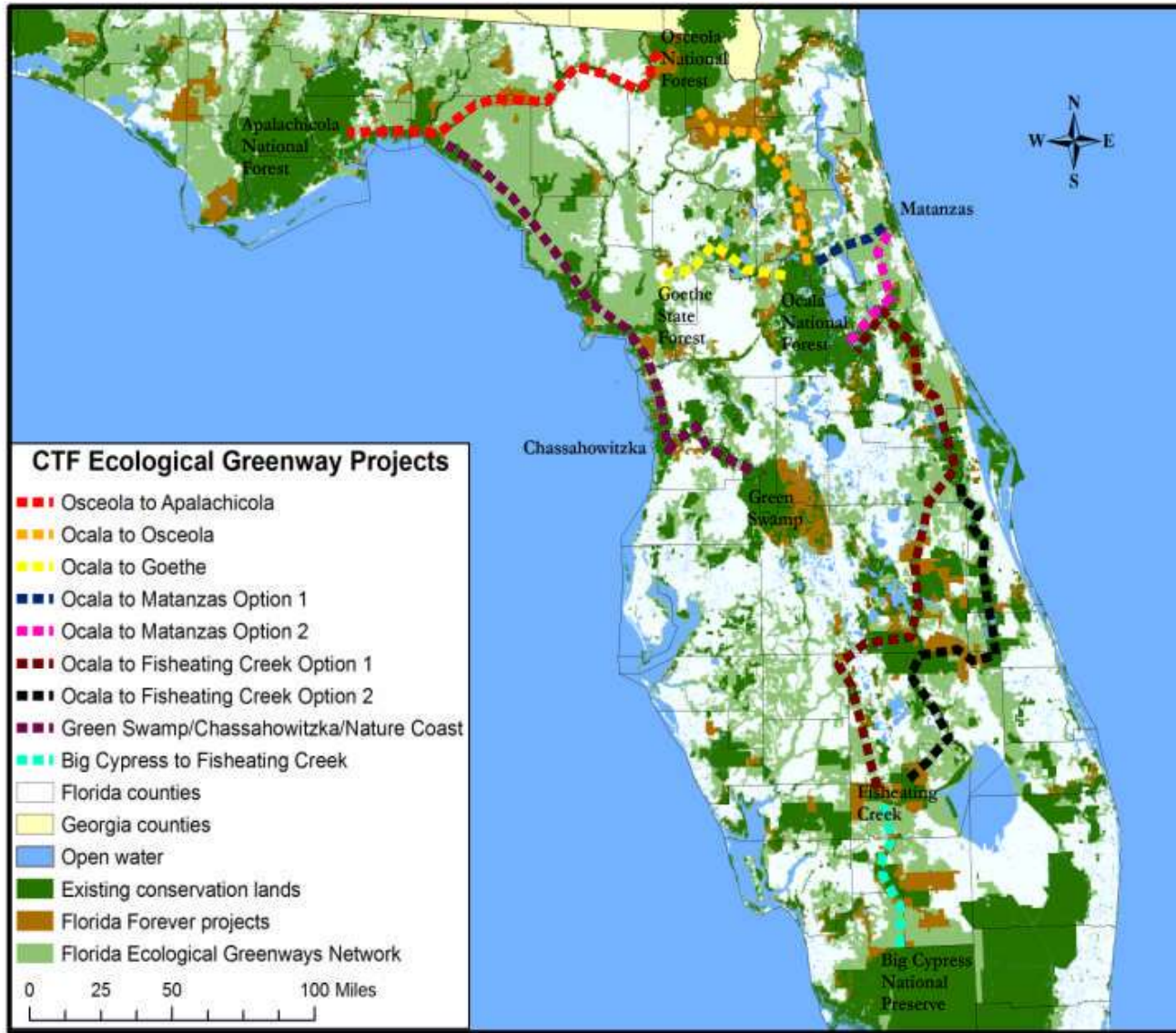






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Coexistence Challenges



Proactive
Incentives/Payments for Ecological Services

Reactive
Livestock Compensation

Urban, suburban, and exurban wildlife







Defenders of Wildlife





Protect your pets and livestock.

BUILD A PREDATOR-RESISTANT ENCLOSURE

Defenders of Wildlife can help.



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Partnerships

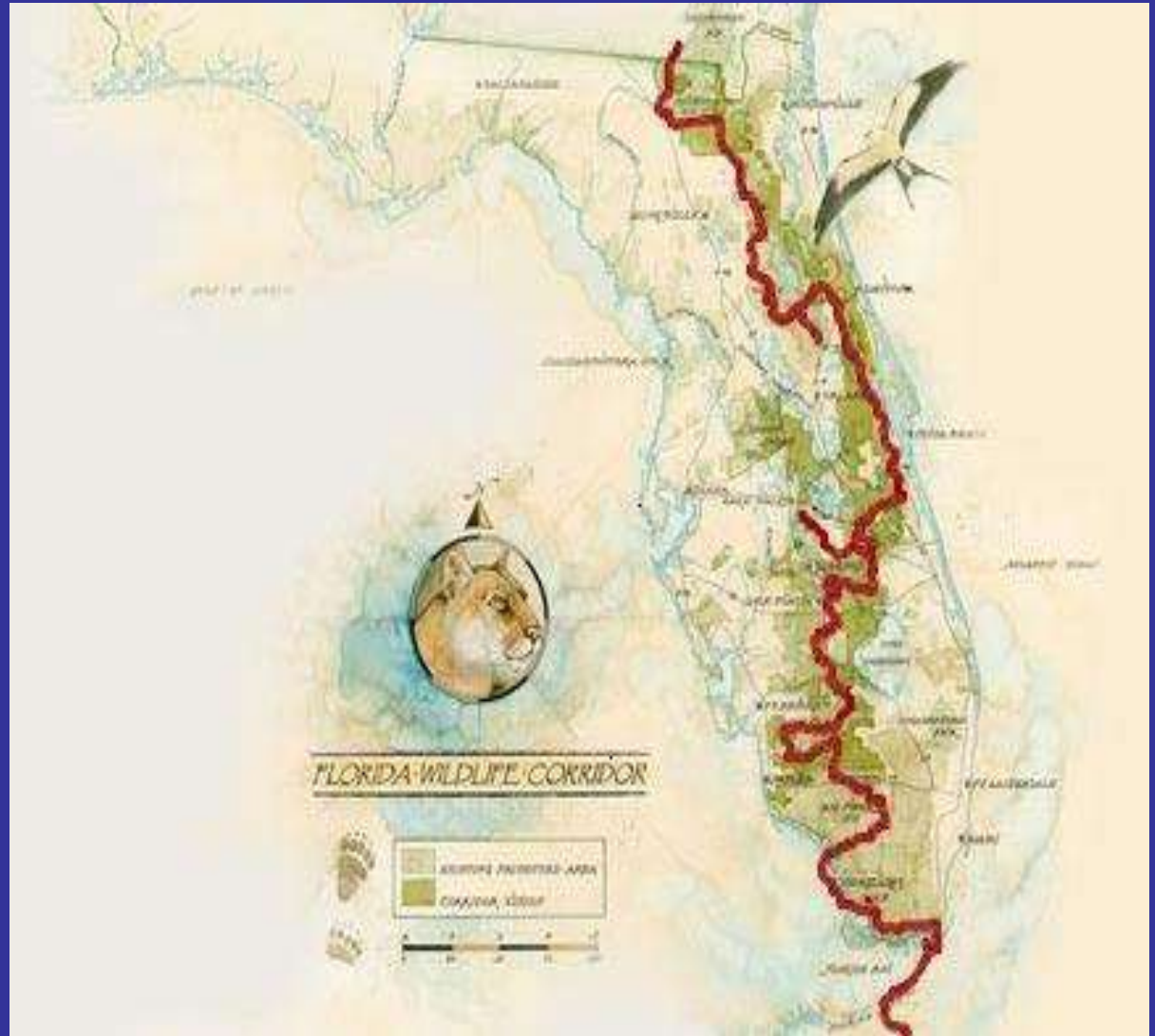


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Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition

Everglades
to Okefenokee
1,000 miles in 100 days



Florida Panther Festival



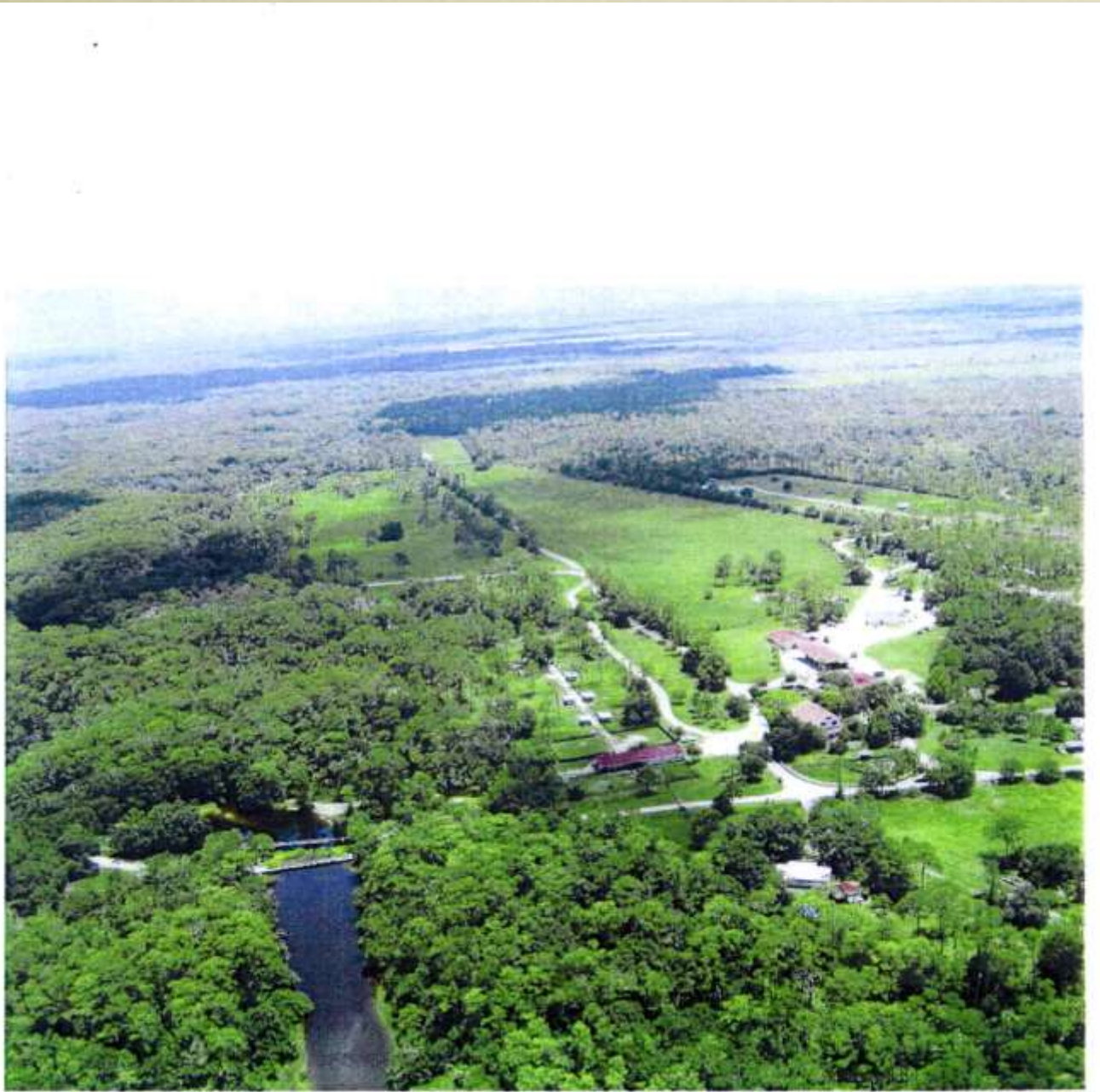
November 15, 2014
North Collier Regional Park, Naples Florida

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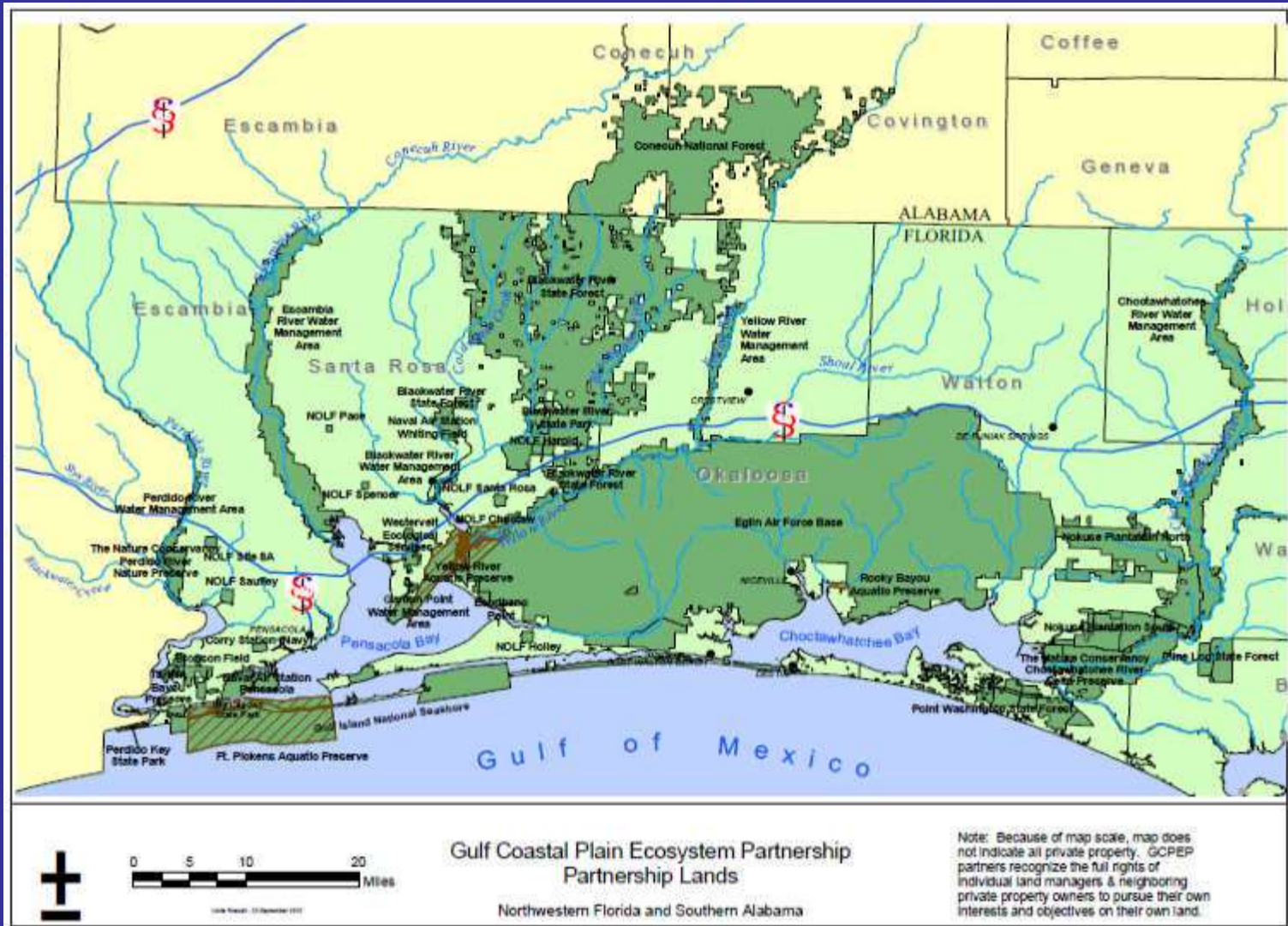






TNC's Northern Everglades Priority Areas



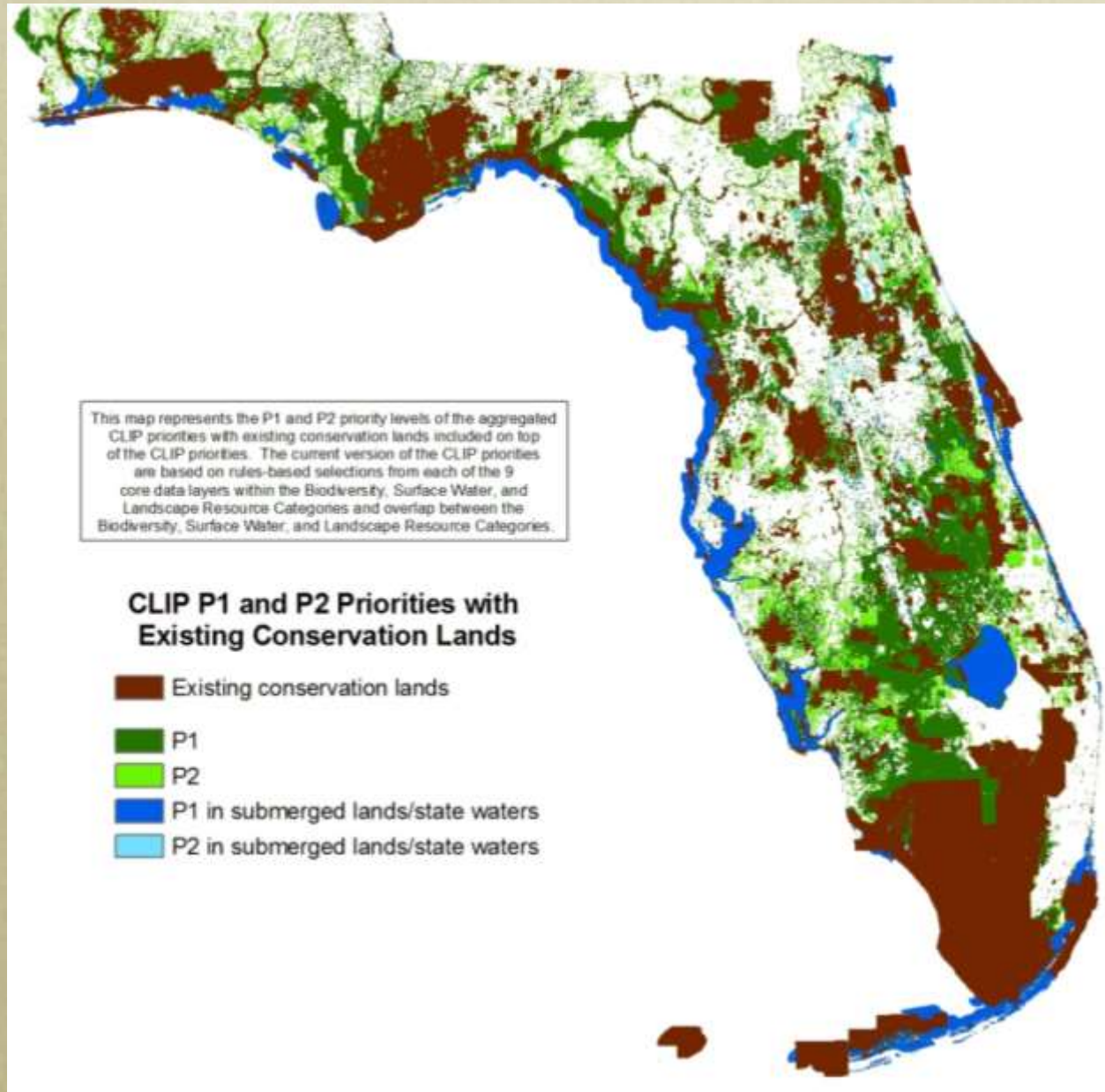




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Consensus Priority 1 & 2





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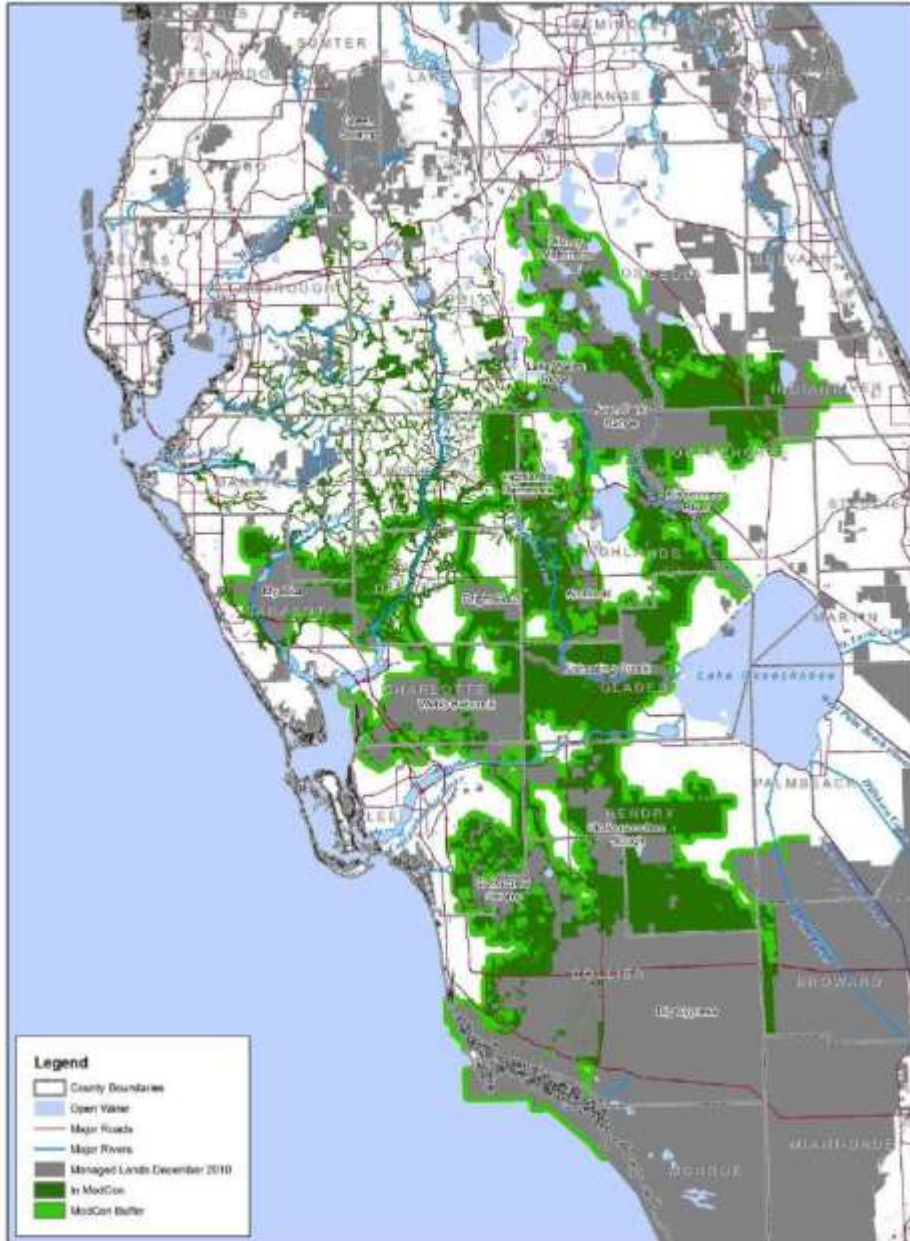


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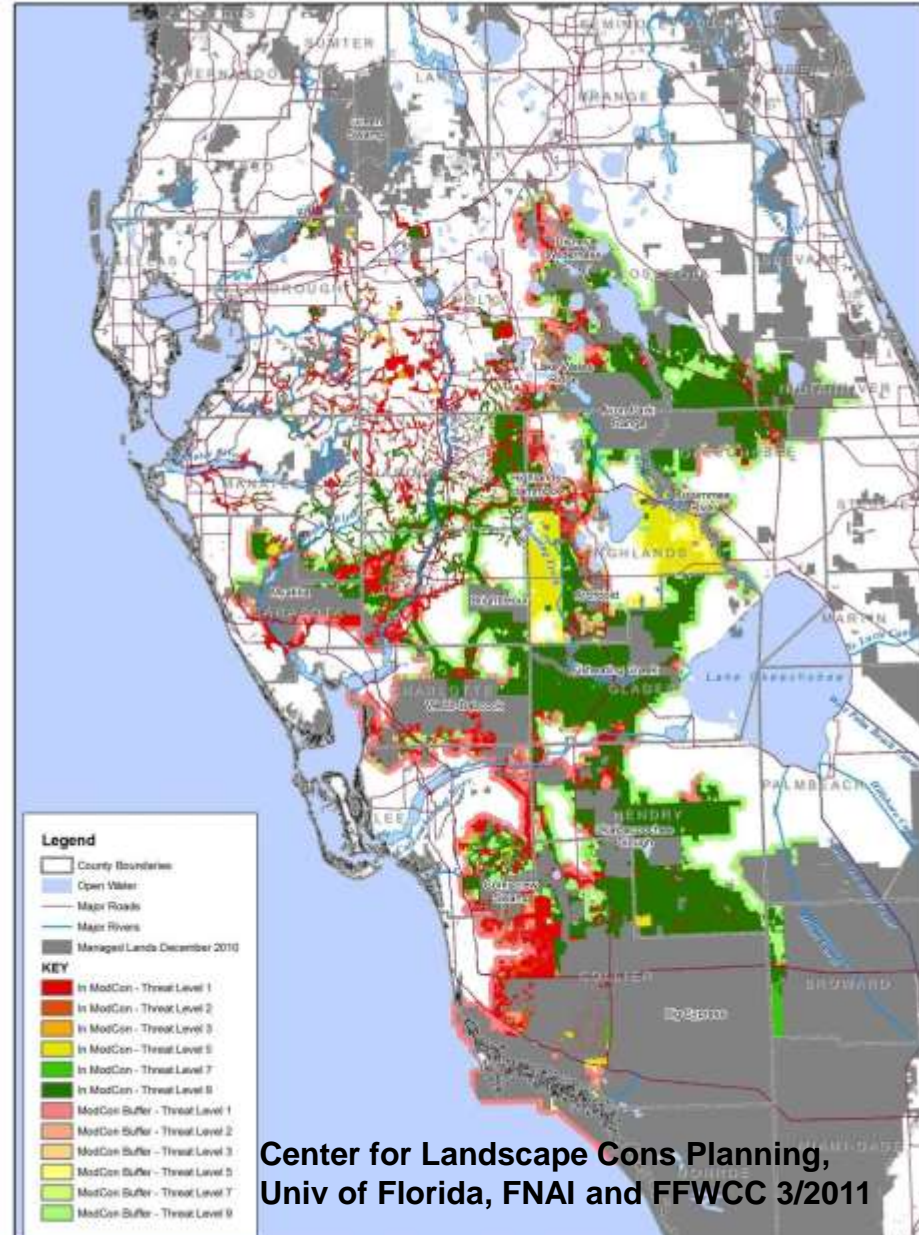


Analysis of corridors & threats

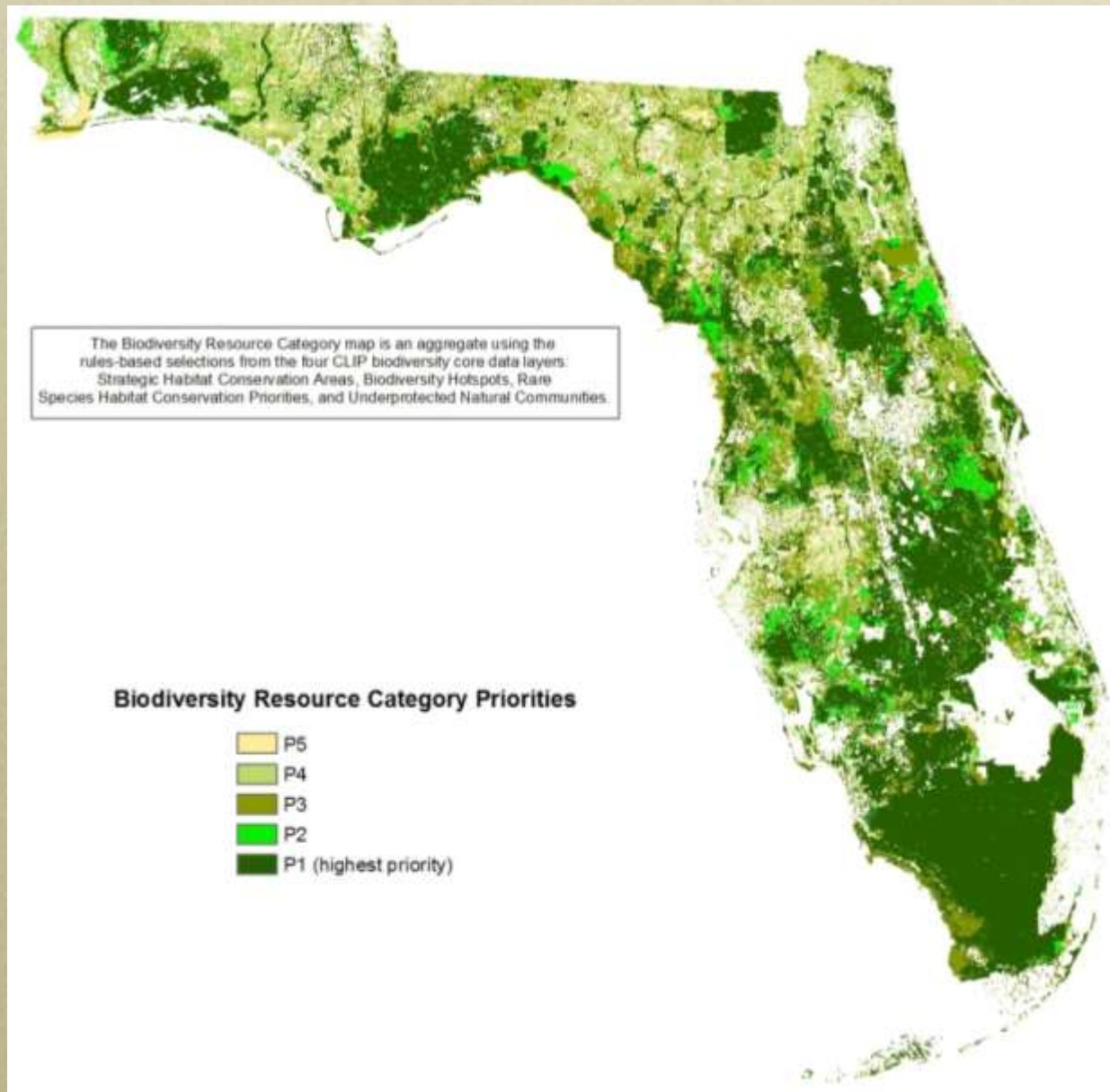
Assessment of Threats: Moderate Connectivity Model with 1 Mile Buffer of Core Components



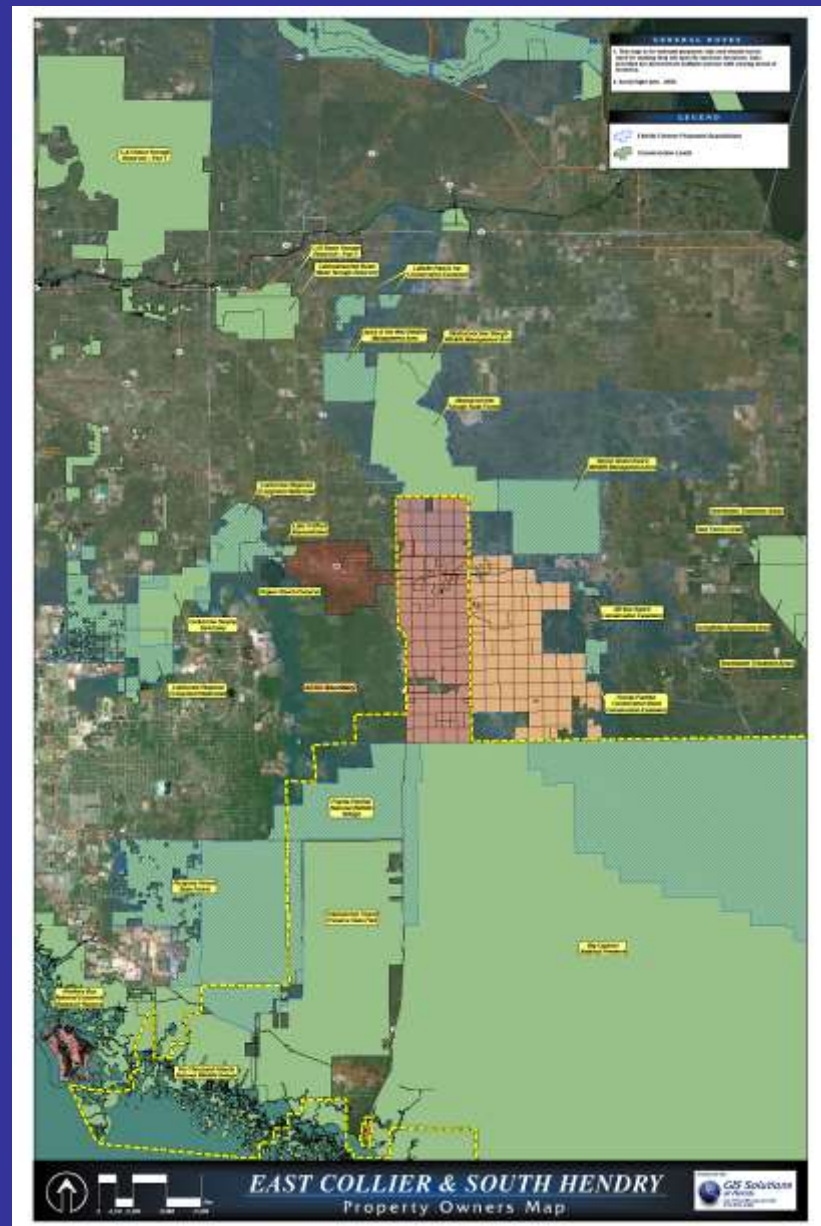
Rapid Assessment of Threats Synthesis: Maximum Threat from Any Input



Biodiversity Category Priorities



Acquisition Targets



**Turner River Road
&
U.S 41**



**Turner River Bridge
Underpass Site**



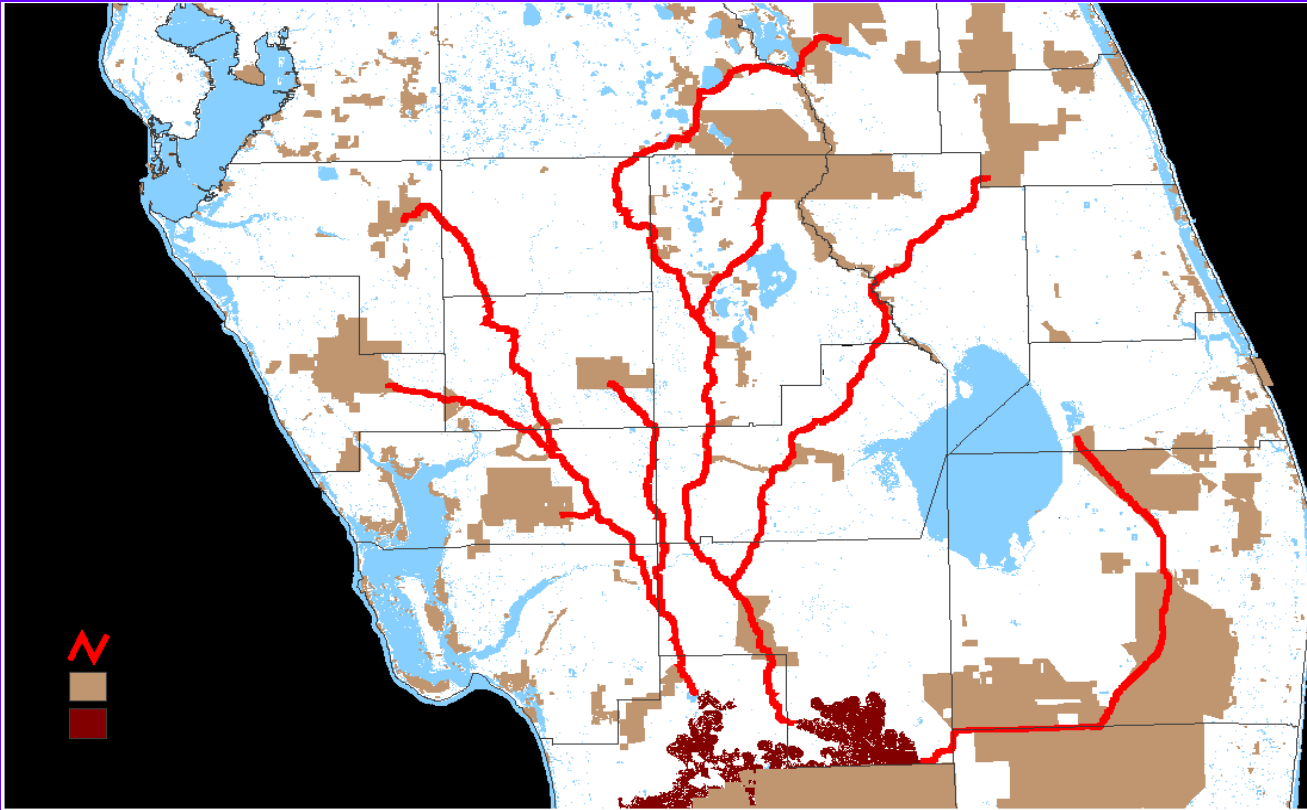


Figure 38. Least cost paths likely to be used by Florida panthers dispersing from the core population area to large tracts of public and private conservation lands in the southern portion of central Florida.

Public safety concerns

Bear attack leaves woman injured but alive in Florida suburb

Wildlife officials kill 5 bears following attack

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WOMAN ATTACKED

Bear Attacks Florida Woman Walking Her Dogs

sky NEWS By Sky News US Team | Sky News - Tue, Dec 3, 2013

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Bear Attacks Florida Woman Walking Her Dogs

A woman in Florida has been attacked and seriously injured by a bear while walking her dogs.

The woman from the central Florida town of Longwood was being treated at Orlando Regional Medical Center. Her injuries are not been identified.

Her injuries are threatening.

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Panther captured near beach at Clam Pass Park, relocated to preserve

By www.panlesnews.com
Posted March 24, 2014 at 6:52 p.m.

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Collier County Residents Asked To Look Out For Panther

December 27, 2013 8:42 PM

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WCCC (COURTESY, FWC)

ALCONYX

Florida Panther Potential Habitat

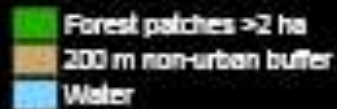


Figure 50. Potential panther habitat in Florida. The map was created by lumping forest cover types from WMD and FWC data, deleting forest patches <2 ha, and adding all non-urban land cover types within 200 m of forest patches.