

Planning for Growth and Open Space Conservation

**This webinar series is sponsored by:
USDA Forest Service
State and Private Forestry - Cooperative Forestry**

**Organized by
Rick Pringle, Susan Stein, Sara Comas, Susan Guynn (Clemson University)
and the
Forest Service National Open Space Conservation Group**

This webinar is being recorded

**Dial in for Audio
1-888-757-2790
code: 254367**

Session #4: The Forest Service Toolbox: Conservation Easement and Land Acquisition Programs



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*Assistant Director
Lands and Realty
Management Program
Washington D.C.*



Kyle Jones

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National Forests in Florida*



Deirdre Raimo

*Forest Legacy Program Manager
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Logistics – Q&A

- **Continuing Education Credits**
 - Attend entire presentation
- **Questions for speakers – chat pod**
- **Technical difficulties – chat pod or email Susan Guynn: SGUYNN@clemson.edu**

Getting to Know You!



Jeff Vail

Assistant Director

Lands and Realty Management Program

Washington D.C.

Land & Water Conservation Fund

What do we do?

How do we select acquisitions?

Who is a partner?

-multiple resource benefits: wildlife, watershed, recreation, cultural & historic values)

-multiple stakeholder interest/support/involvement in these acquisitions (local, state, NGO, recreationists, others)

-real landscape benefits beyond NFS boundaries, beyond public ownership boundaries.

-Leveraging: Financial & In-Kind

-Alignment with Agency Priorities: Restoration CFLR and watershed based analysis

Malheur NF, Oregon



John Day River Headwaters

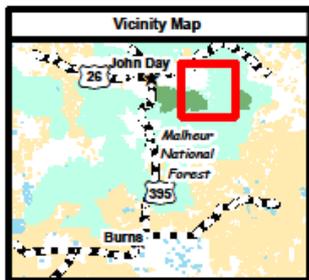
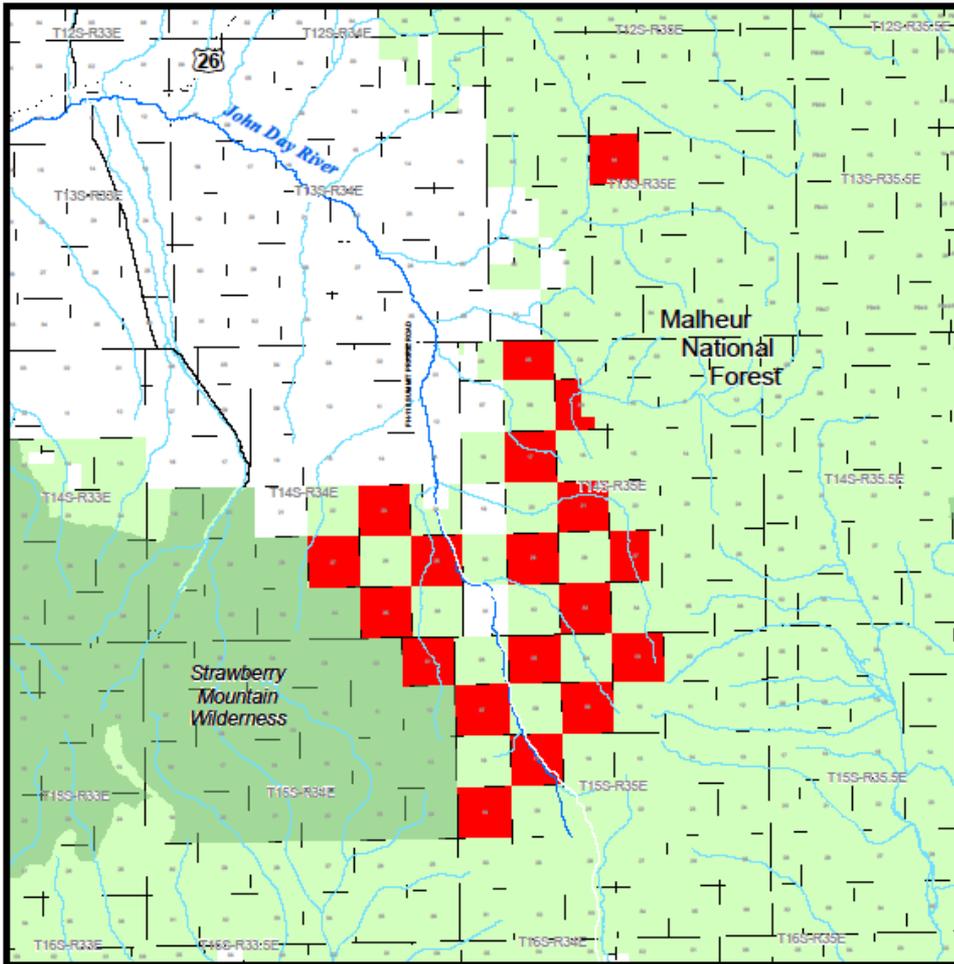
10,000 acres

3 phases over four years

\$10 million

Partners:

- Rocky Mountain Elk
- Oregon Fish & Wildlife
- County Commissioners
- Tribes
- Oregon Hunters Ass'n



John Day River Headwaters Purchase

this map depicts USDA Forest Service Land Status Record data and the approximate location of the proposed purchase parcels

State of Oregon
U.S. Forest Service - Region Six
Malheur National Forest

Disclaimer
The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.

Acquisition of the John Day River Headwaters ...

- **Connects Sensitive Areas:** the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, Glacier Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area and Baldy Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area.
- **Consolidates** “checkerboard” ownership, protecting waters that serve as habitat for fish, big game, and other wildlife species.
- **Enhances** fish and wildlife habitat, provides additional recreation opportunities, and secures public access to 35-45,000 acres of National Forest System lands.

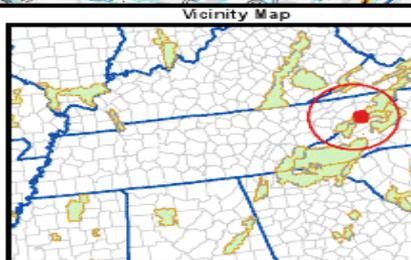
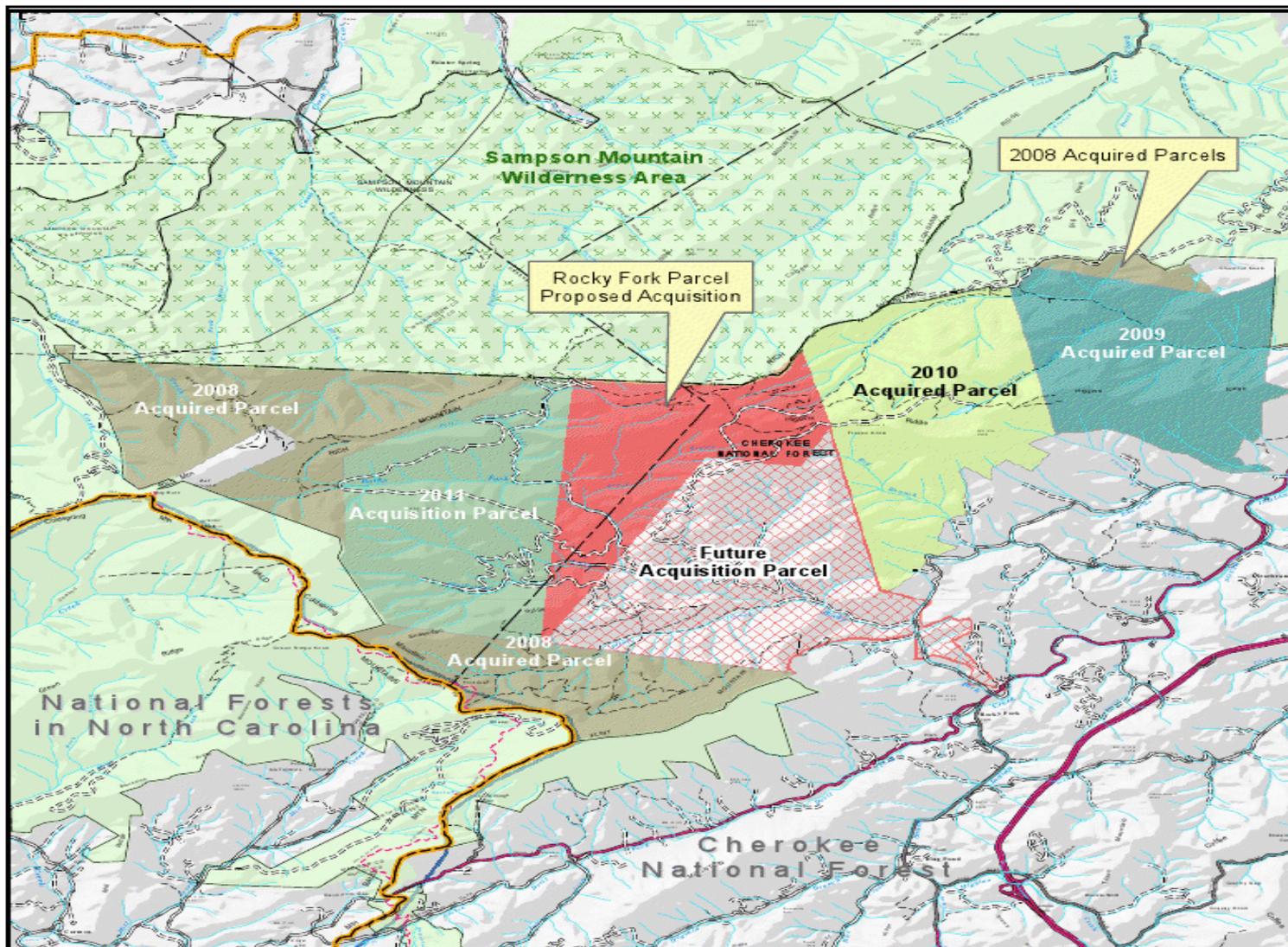
Rocky Fork



- Cherokee National Forest, TN
- Sampson Mountain Wilderness
- ~9,000 acres
- \$30 million dollars
- Multi-year, Phased Acquisition
- Leveraged

Acquisition of the Rocky Fork Property...

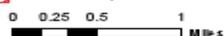
- Contributes to **landscape restoration**, consolidate management of existing national forests, conserve open space and improve silvicultural approaches
- Brings revenue to the local economy** by providing access to **recreation** including hiking, fishing, rock climbing, cross country skiing, & horseback riding
- Supports federally listed species** including the peregrine falcon
- Protects** watersheds, wetlands and riparian areas
- Maintains and improves watershed condition**
- Includes a 7-acre lake that contributes to **fire management** and **control of invasive species**
- Protects the **Appalachian Trail, Flint Creek Battle site, & Sampson Mountain Wilderness**



Map Creation Date - 01/03/2011
 Map Revision Date -

Legend

- Administrative Forest Boundary
- Wilderness Area
- National Forest System Lands
- 2008 Acquired Parcel
- 2009 Acquired Parcel
- 2010 Acquired Parcel
- 2011 Acquisition Parcel
- Proposed Acquisition Parcel
- Future Acquisition Parcel



**Tennessee Mountains
 Rocky Fork
 FY 2012 LWCF**

This map depicts USDA Forest Service Land Status Record data and the approximate location of the proposed purchase parcel.



State of Tennessee
 Forest Service Region 8
 Cherokee National Forest



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Land and Water Conservation Fund Basics! (LWCF)



- **Land Acquisition Only**
- **Purpose:** “preserve, develop, and assure accessibility to outdoor recreation”
- **Funding:** Off-shore oil and gas royalty payments-not tax dollars
- **Authorization:** Through 2015!
- **Multiple Agencies:** BLM, Park Service, FWS, Forest Legacy Program, Section 6 ESA and NFS all use LWCF

FOREST SERVICE LWCF PROCESS

- Competitive 2 stage evaluation process to decide what gets funded
 - Regional competition based on SLARS-Strategic Land Acquisition Rating System
Criteria based on resource value
 - National Competition with National Panel & National Scoring criteria
Criteria based on National impact and support

- Criteria and process available online:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/LWCF/>



- **Request for projects in June. Regional Submissions: Fall. WO ranks in November.**
- **Funding is very competitive.**
- **For more Information, contact local FS Office.**

LWCF Advanced

- **“Critical Inholding” Funds:** small parcels > \$250,000
 - Funds rerouted to “recreational access” for FY13
 - lobbying by hunting and fishing interests.
 - Partner Concerns.
- **Partners:** Wilderness Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund. The Trust for Public Land, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Local Land Trusts and State and local governments, Recreation Industry,
- For FY13, 5 out of 17 proposed projects protect W&WSR.
- Acquisition Funding & Tight Budgets.
- Interagency Collaboratiion

What else?

- **Other Land Adjustment Tools:** Exchanges, Sales, Donations, Rights of Way, Access.
- **Other Acquisition Funds:** Ex: Natural Resource Damages, Highway/Utility Corridor Mitigation Funds.

Nancy Parachini, Land Acquisition Program
Manager
Lands and Realty Management
202-205-1238 nparachini@fs.fed.us



Questions and Answers

Ask questions through the chat pod

If you need to speak:

1. Raise hand and we will call on you
2. Press *6 to unmute

If you need to call in:

Kyle Jones

*Lands, Minerals, and Special Uses
Program Manager
National Forests in Florida*



Suwannee Wildlife Corridor/Pinhook Swamp LWCF Case Study



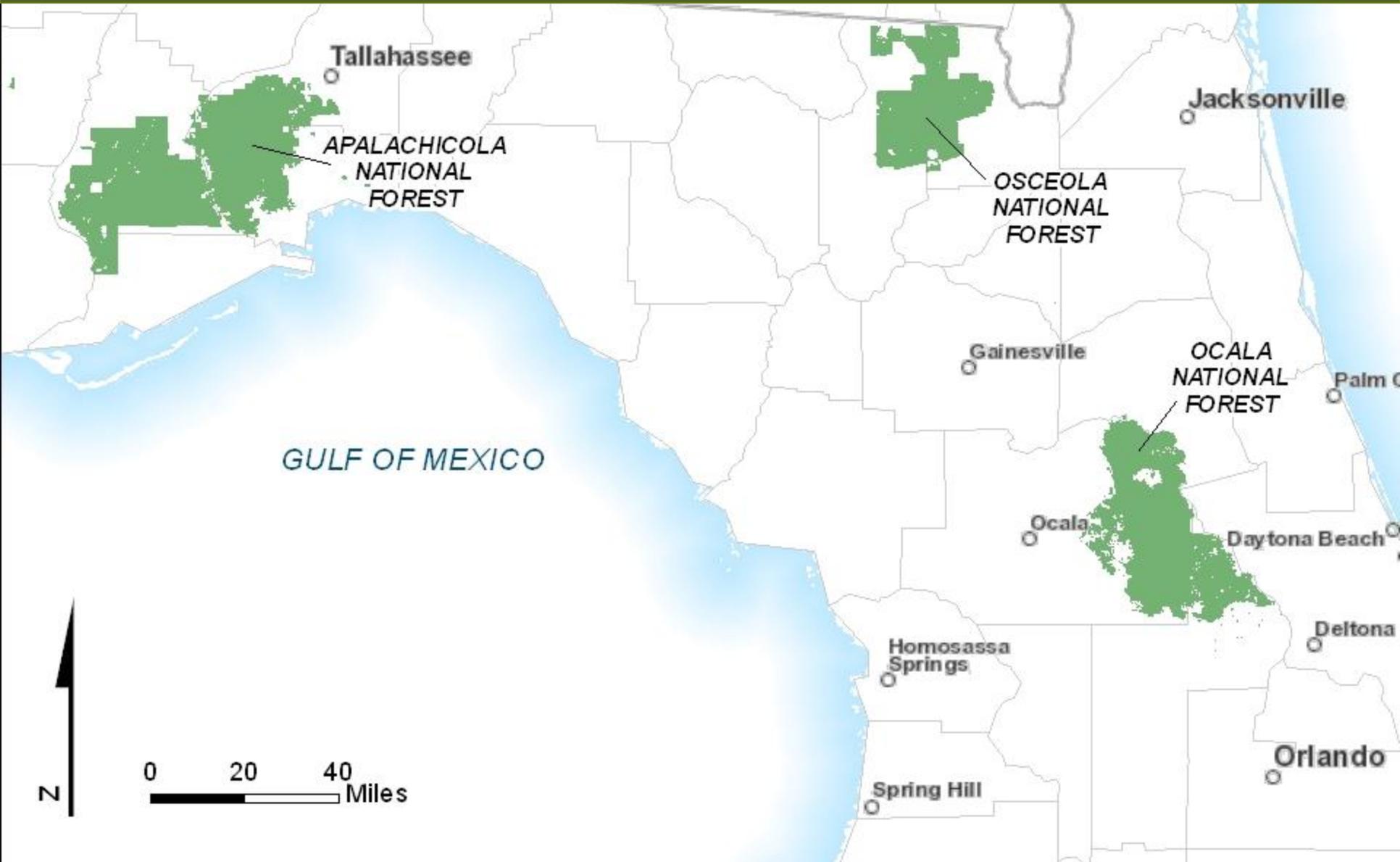
Kyle Jones, National Forests in Florida

Florida Overview

- 4th Largest State
- 25% increase during 1990s
- 90k agriculture acres converted per year to development
- 80 million annual tourists
- Innovative land adjustment team required



Suwannee Wildlife Corridor/Pinhook Swamp LWCF Case Study



Tallahassee

APALACHICOLA
NATIONAL
FOREST

GULF OF MEXICO



OSCEOLA
NATIONAL
FOREST

Jacksonville

Gainesville

OCALA
NATIONAL
FOREST

Palm Bay

Ocala

Daytona Beach

Homosassa
Springs

Deltona

Spring Hill

Orlando



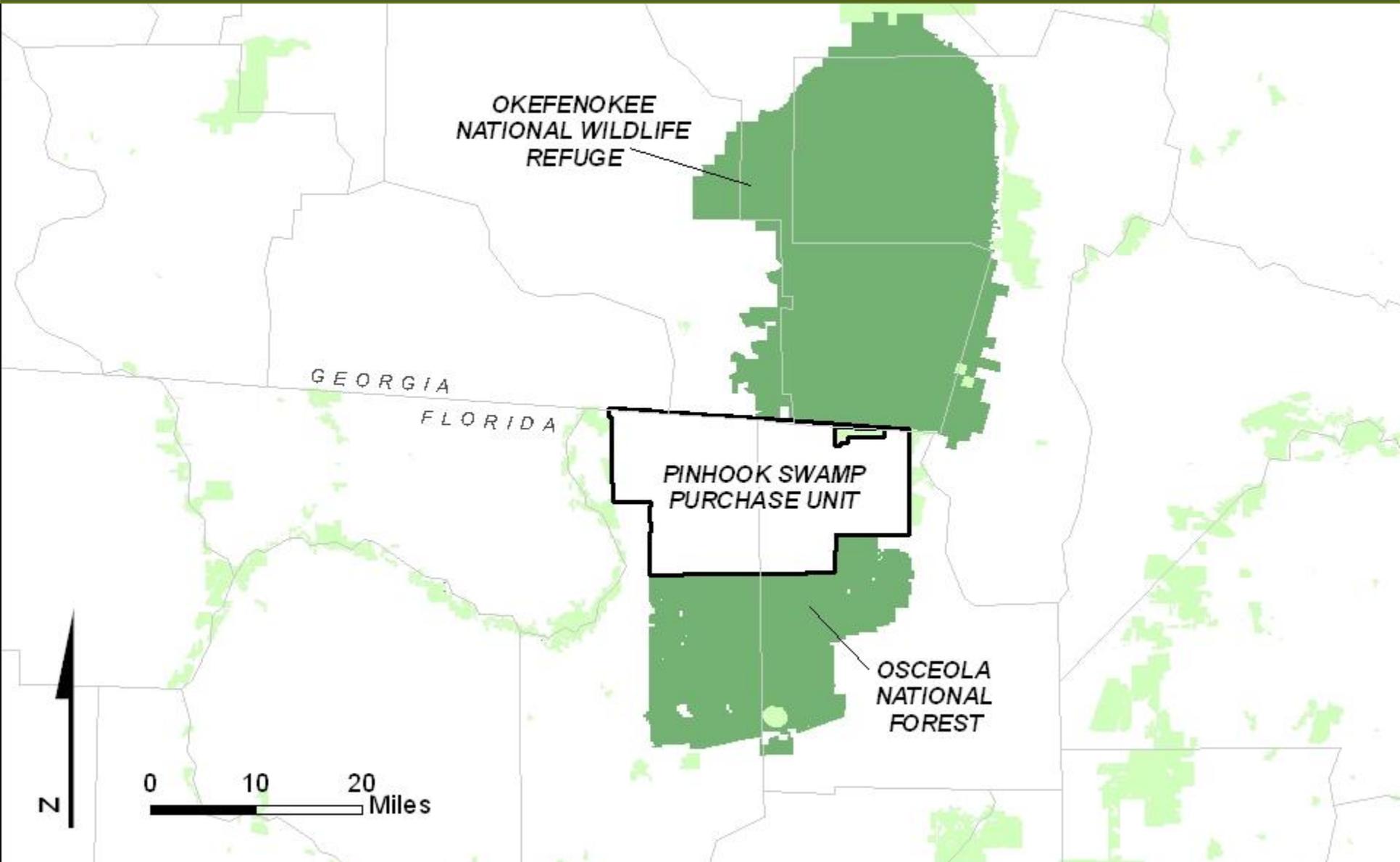
0 20 40 Miles

National Forests in Florida Overview

- Apalachicola NF
567,000 acres
- Ocala NF
384,000 acres
- Osceola NF
230,000



Suwannee Wildlife Corridor/Pinhook Swamp LWCF Case Study



OKEFENOKEE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

GEORGIA
FLORIDA

PINHOOK SWAMP
PURCHASE UNIT

OSCEOLA
NATIONAL
FOREST



0 10 20 Miles

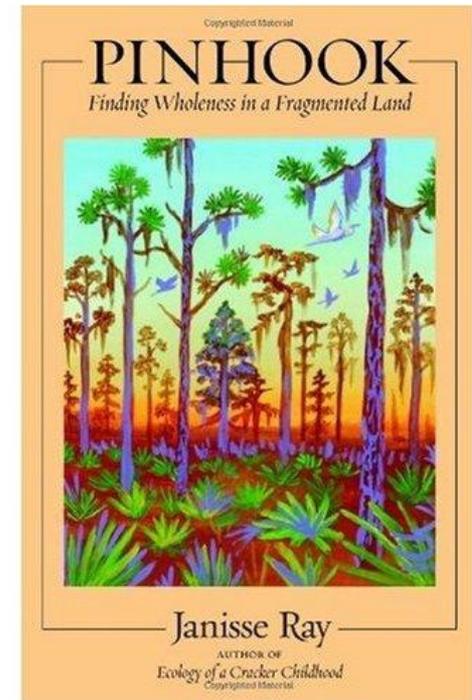
Resource Benefits

- Watershed
- Threatened Species
- Corridors/Connectivity
- Recreation



Stakeholder Interest, Support, and Involvement

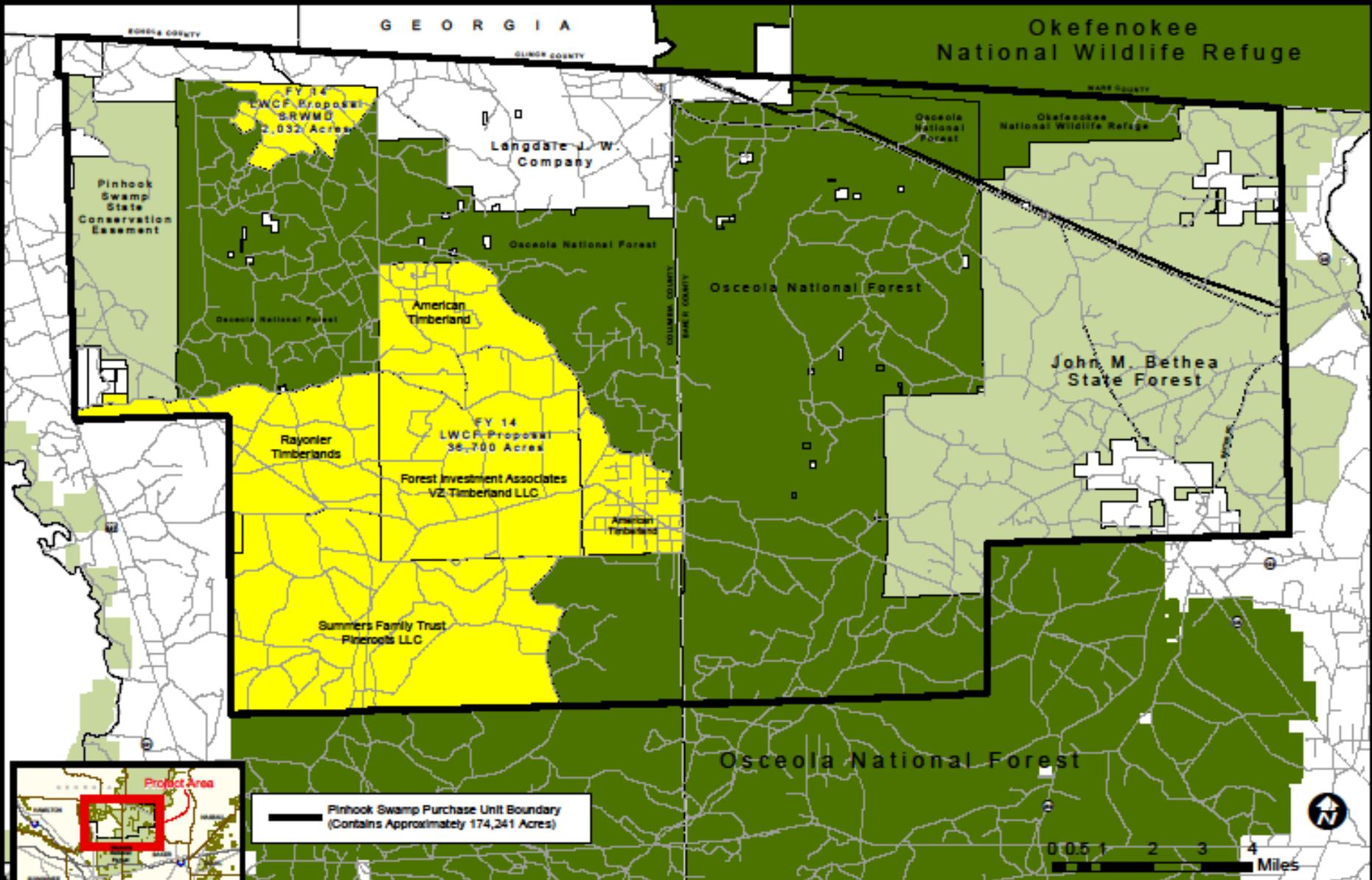
- Local, State, Federal
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Leveraging
- Private





Suwannee Wildlife Corridor LWCF Project

Pinhook Purchase Unit



Pinhook Swamp Purchase Unit Boundary
(Contains Approximately 174,341 Acres)



* This map is to be used for display purposes only. Property ownership information was provided by Baker and Columbia Property Appraiser offices. Acreage estimates were calculated by GIS software. Map Published: May 17, 2012.

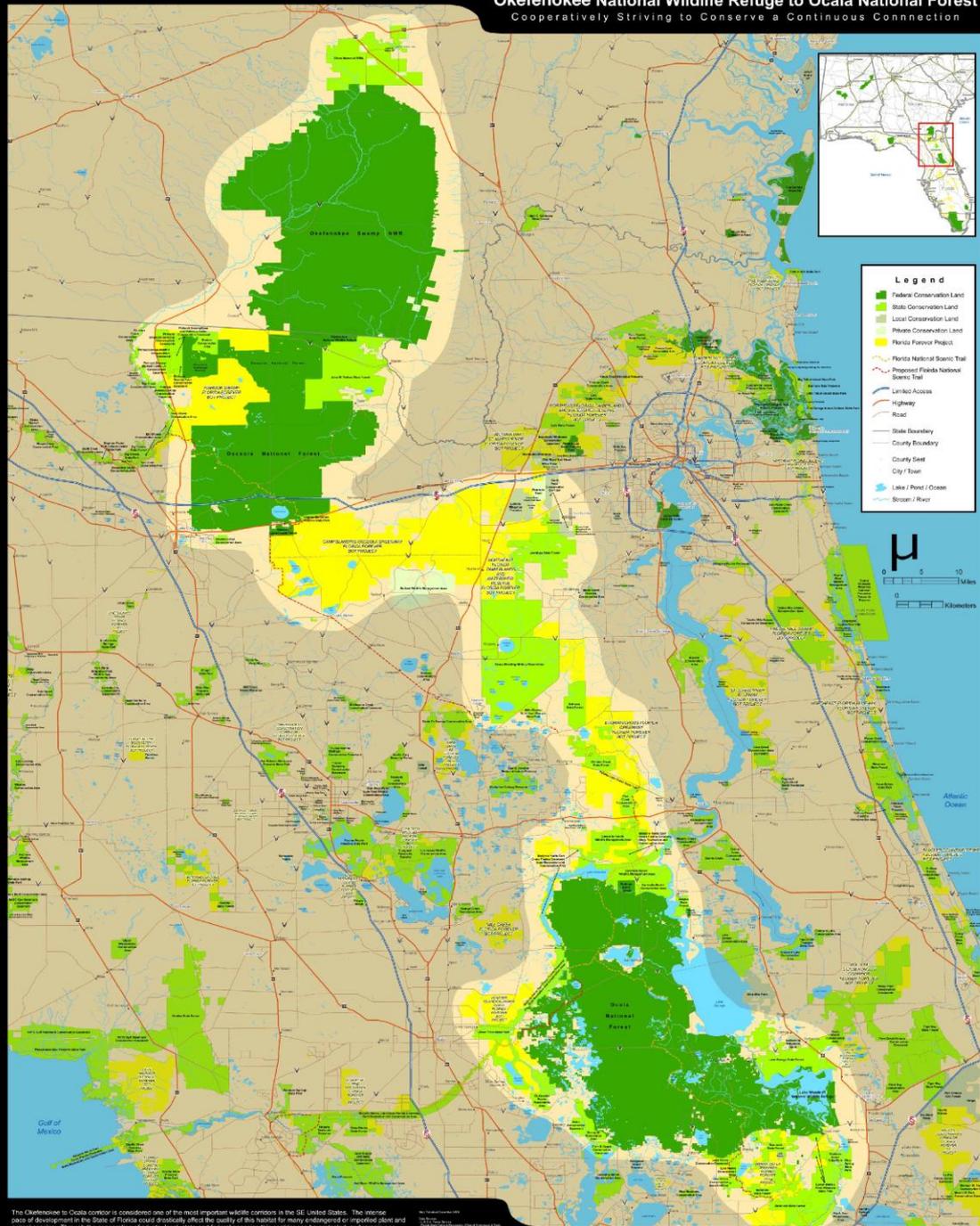
FY2014 LWCF Proposals	
Osceola National Forest (70,000 Acres Within Purchase Unit)	Pinhook Swamp State Conservation Easement (8,784 Acres)
Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (3,424 Acres Within Purchase Unit)	Langdale J.W. Company (11,485 Acres)
John M. Bethea State Forest (33,239 Acres Within Purchase Unit)	Rayonier Timberlands (5,954 Acres)
	American Timberland (8,178 Acres)
	Pineroots LLC - Summers Family Trust (14,178 Acres)
	VZ Timberlands LLC - Forest Investment Associates (9,808 Acres)

Landscape Benefits

- Longleaf Pine
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)
- Fire Resilient Forests
- Management
- Military Buffering and Flight Zone Protection



Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge to Ocala National Forest
 Cooperatively Striving to Conserve a Continuous Connection



The Okefenokee to Ocala corridor is considered one of the most important wildlife corridors in the SE United States. The intense pace of development in the State of Florida could drastically affect the quality of this habitat for many endangered or imperiled plant and animal species. Through the cooperation of private, local, state and federal agencies this corridor can be protected, and remain one of our nation's most diverse landscapes.

QUESTIONS?

Kyle Jones, National Forests in Florida

krjones@fs.fed.us

(850) 523-8577

Questions and Answers

Ask questions through the chat pod

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If you need to call in:

Deirdre Raimo

Forest Service

State and Private Forestry

Forest Legacy Program Manager

Northeastern Area





Forest Service Tools for Land Conservation Outside the Proclamation Boundary



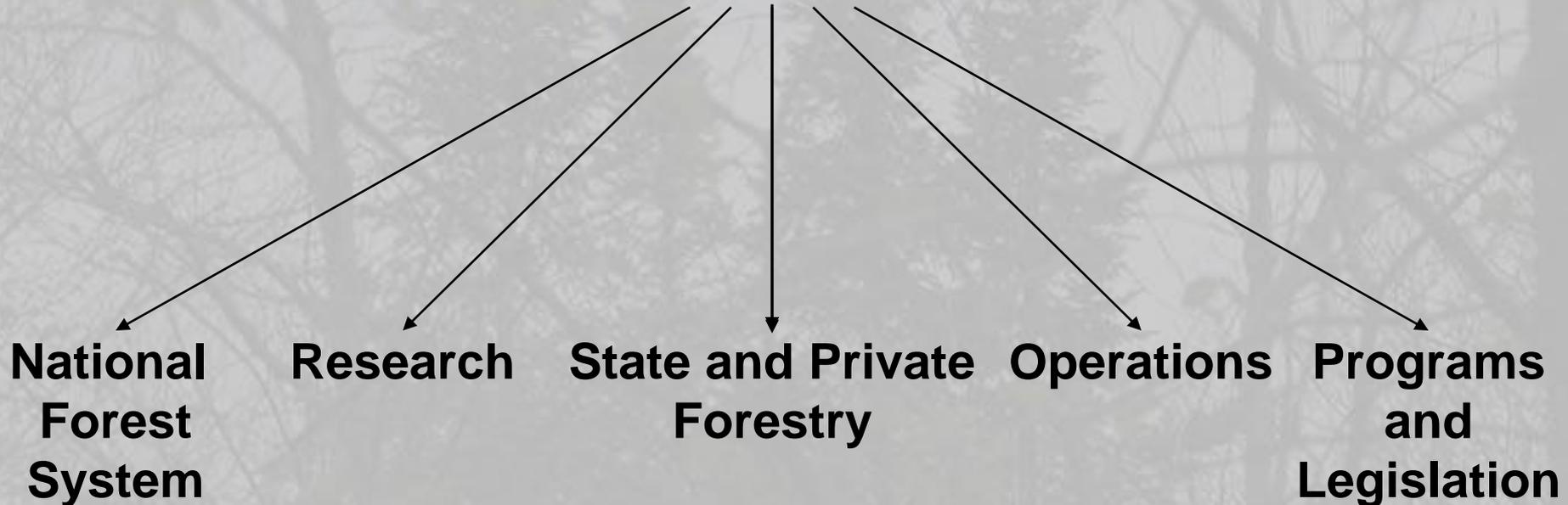
Presented at the **Open space Webinar** July 19, 2012.



The Forest Legacy Program Is Administered by the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry



USDA Forest Service Chief





USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program



Purpose:

To ascertain and protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to nonforest uses



Connecticut Lakes Headwaters – New Hampshire

Environmentally Important Values Protected



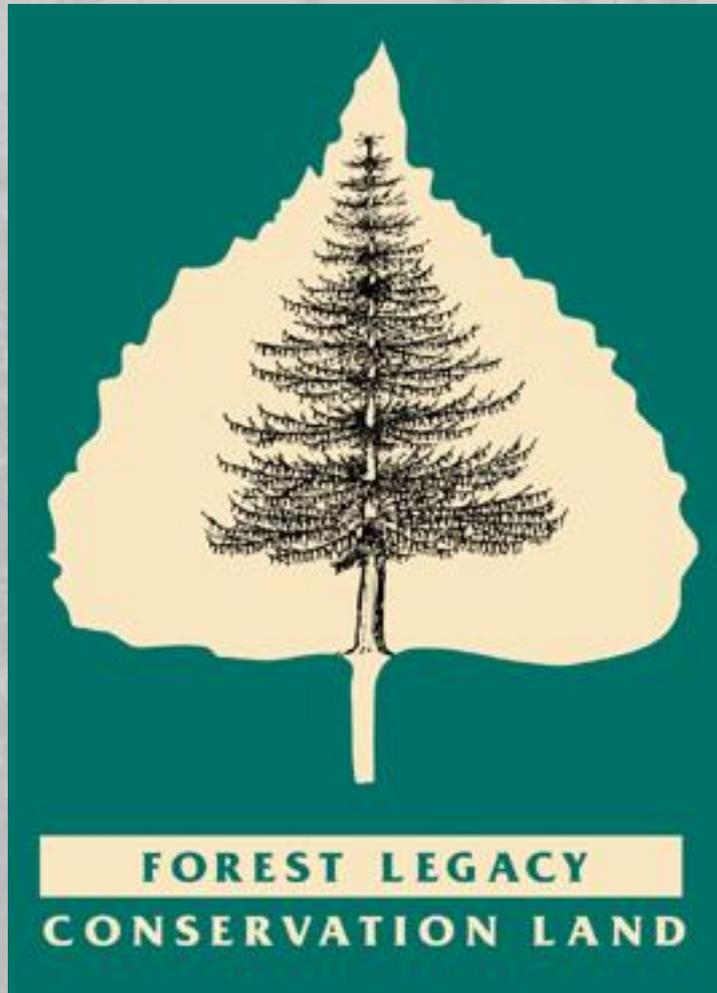
Traditional



Wildlife



Riparian



Scenic



Recreational



Cultural

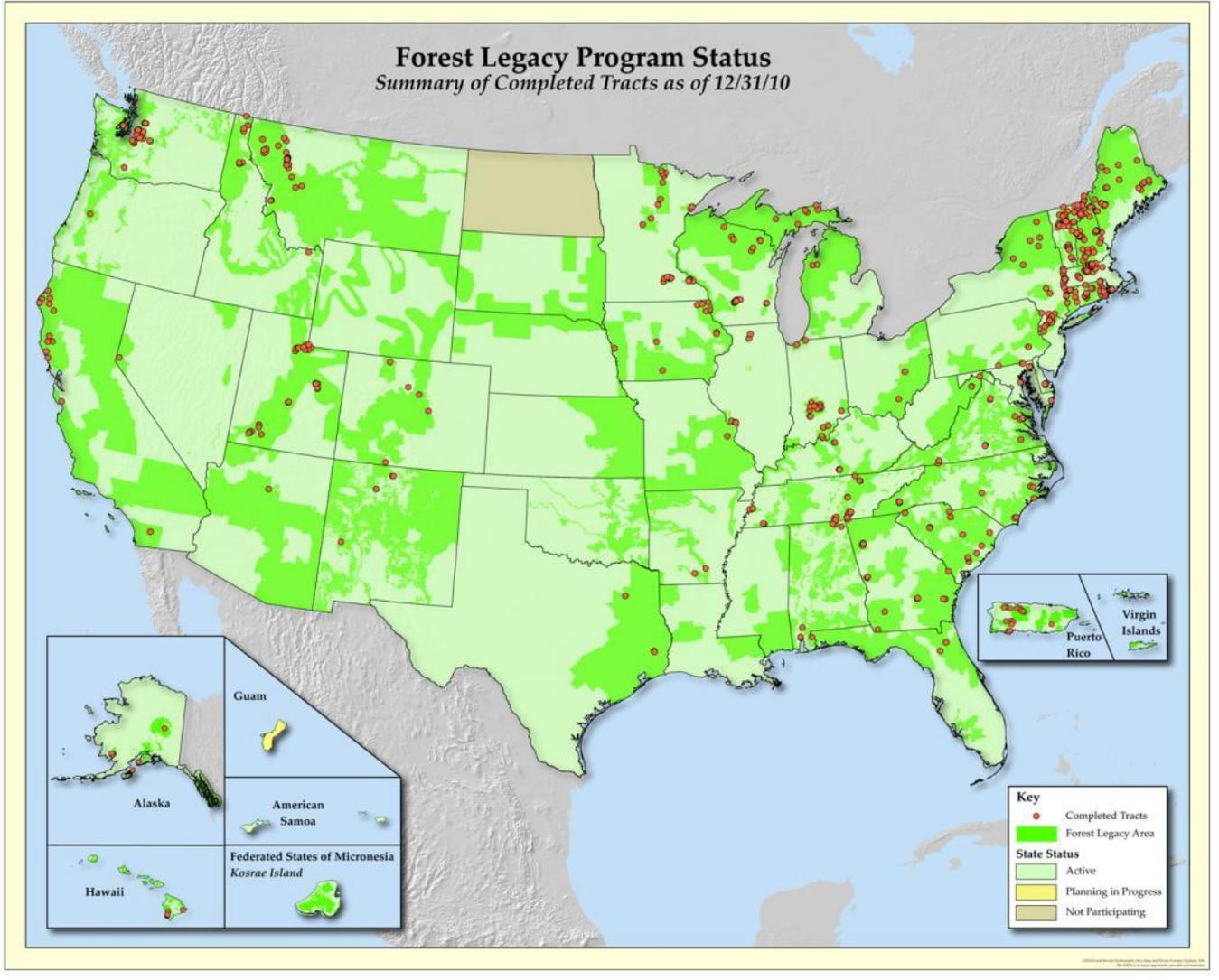


Conservation Easements Are the Forest Legacy Program's Primary Tool

Conservation Easement: a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or governmental agency that permanently limits the uses of the land to protect its conservation values, while the landowner continues to own it.



Participating States



	Projects	Tracts	Acres	Total Cost	FLP Contribution
TOTAL	339	720	2,258,467	\$1,311,435,665	\$571,067,221



State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee



Gerard Woods – New Jersey

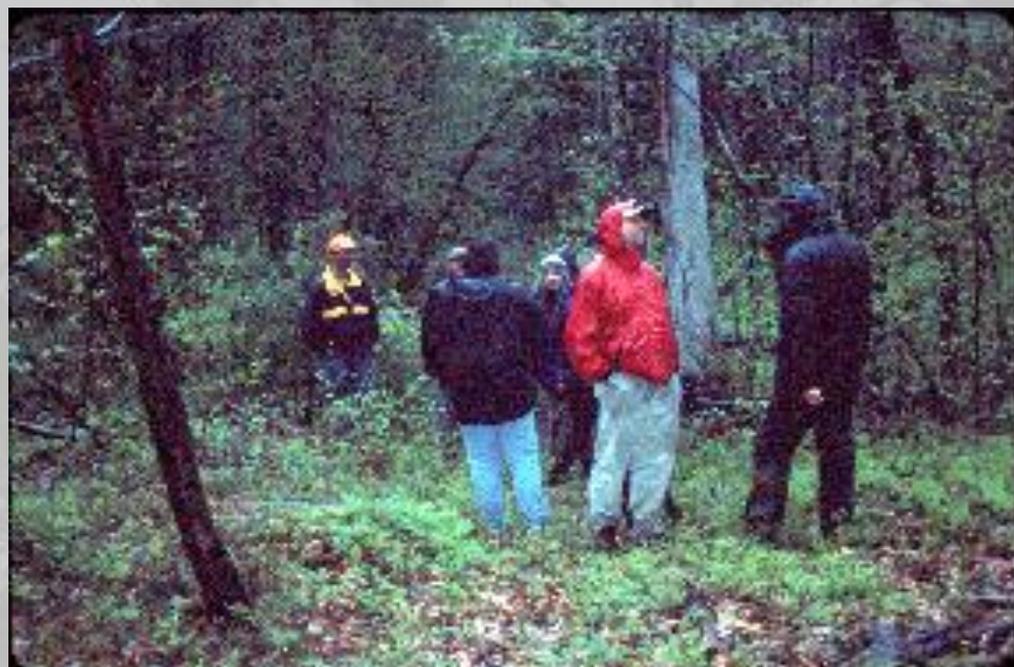
- Chaired and administered by the State Forester
- Cooperates with the State lead agency to prepare the AON
- Identifies eligibility criteria
- Identifies proposed Forest Legacy Areas
- Selects priority tracts to be considered for enrollment in the program



Conservation Organizations are Key Partners

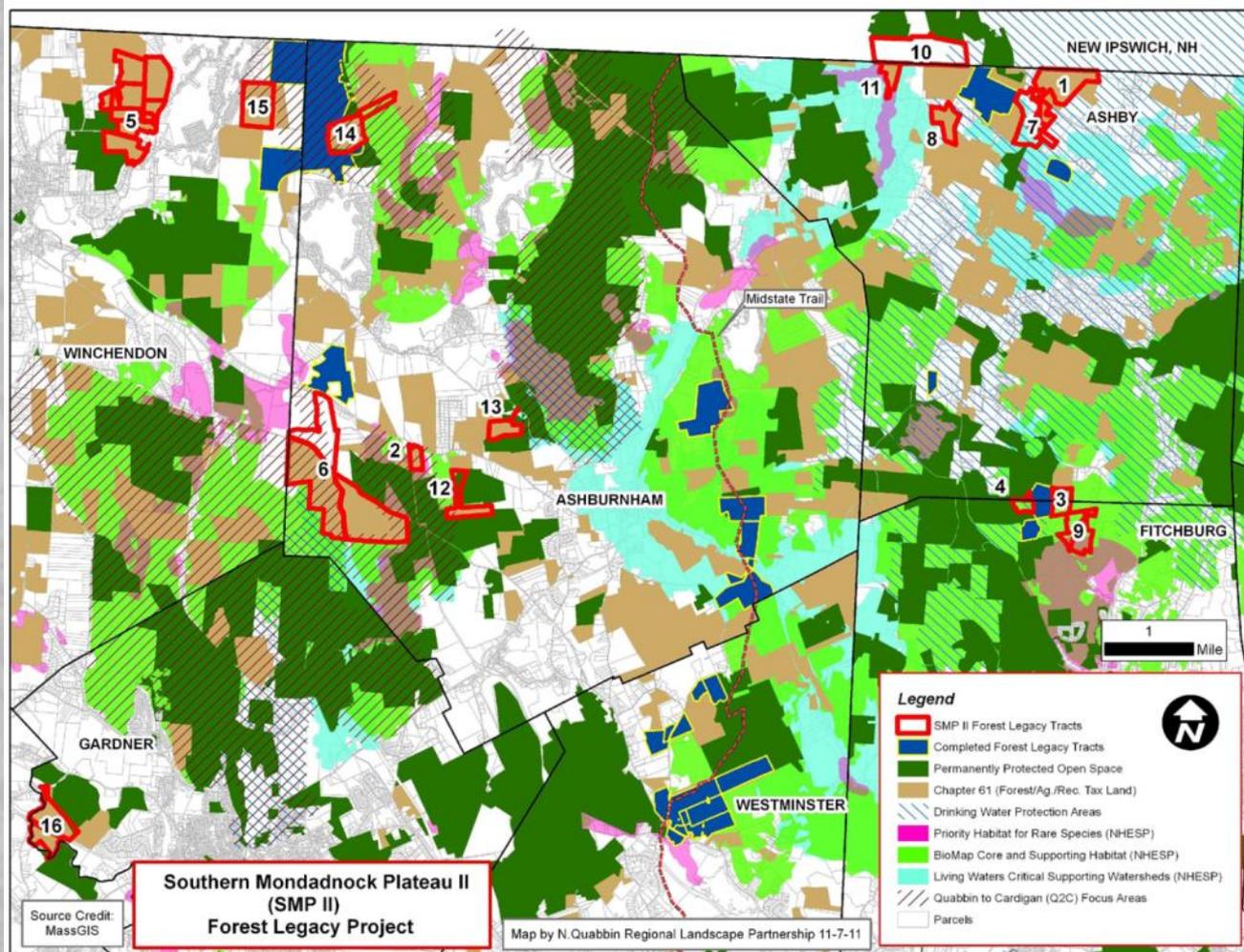


- Participates on the SFSCC
- Seeks out landowners and cultivates interest in the Forest Legacy Program
- Brokers land or interests in land acquisition deals
- Monitors tracts through agreements with governmental entities





Southern Monadnock Plateau Forest Legacy Project, Massachusetts





The Bussell Tract, SMP2 - Massachusetts





Family Landowners



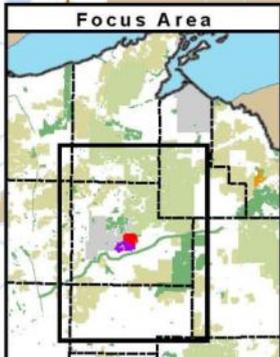
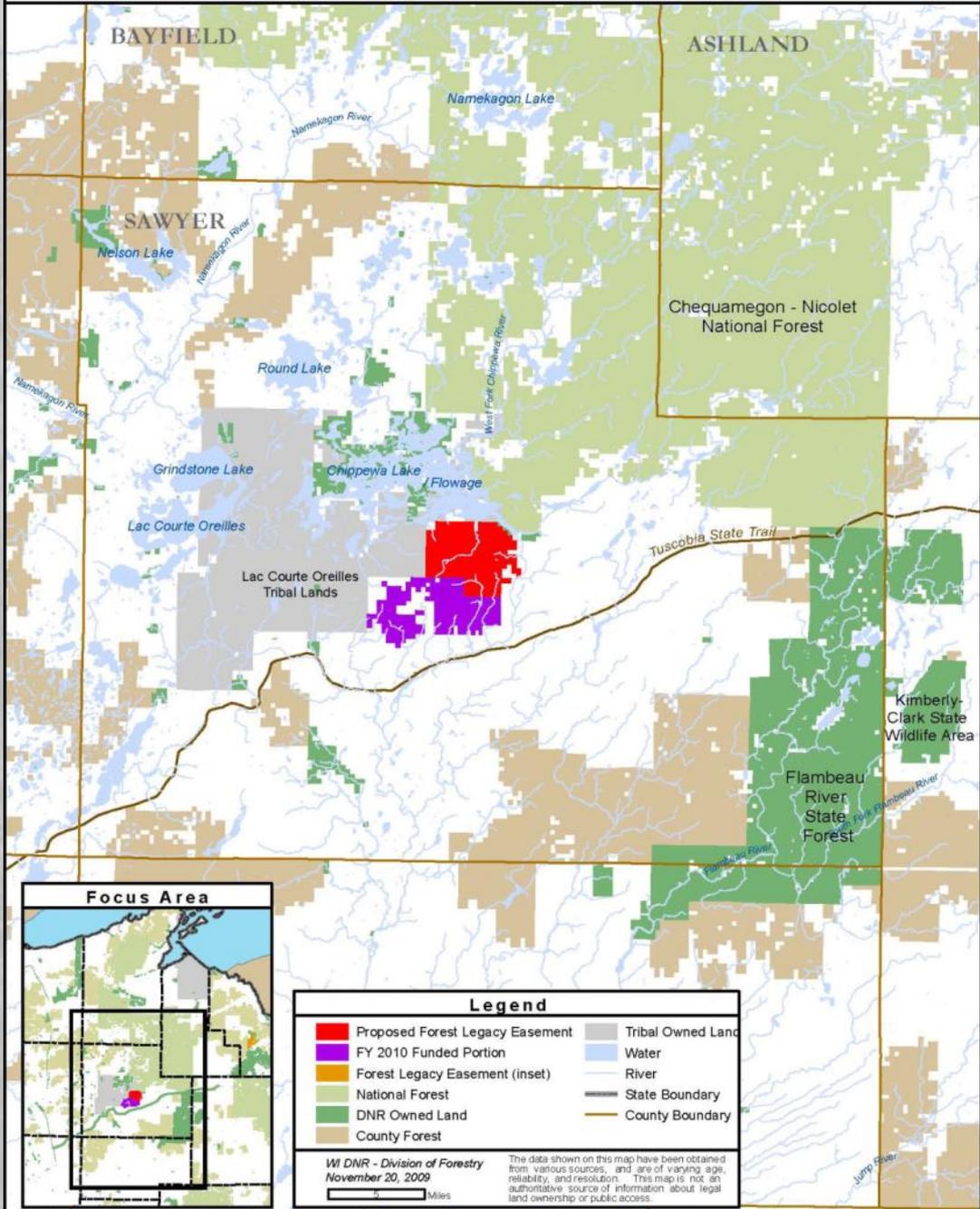
Camp Hi Rock, Massachusetts

I want to be able to continue active forest management and convey my land to my heirs...



Chippewa Flowage Forest

Forest Legacy Easement (18,259 Acres)



Legend	
■ Proposed Forest Legacy Easement	■ Tribal Owned Land
■ FY 2010 Funded Portion	■ Water
■ Forest Legacy Easement (inset)	— River
■ National Forest	— State Boundary
■ DNR Owned Land	— County Boundary
■ County Forest	

WI DNR - Division of Forestry
November 20, 2009

The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability, and resolution. This map is not an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access.



Award-winning Chippewa Flowage Project, Wisconsin





Industrial Landowners



- **Guess their motivations to be: Protects the land from development, which reduces the land value. Initial landowners are paid for the reduction in value, subsequent landowners presumably pay less for the land.**



Landowners Jenness and Jim Robbins – Nicatous Lake – Maine



Monitoring and Enforcement

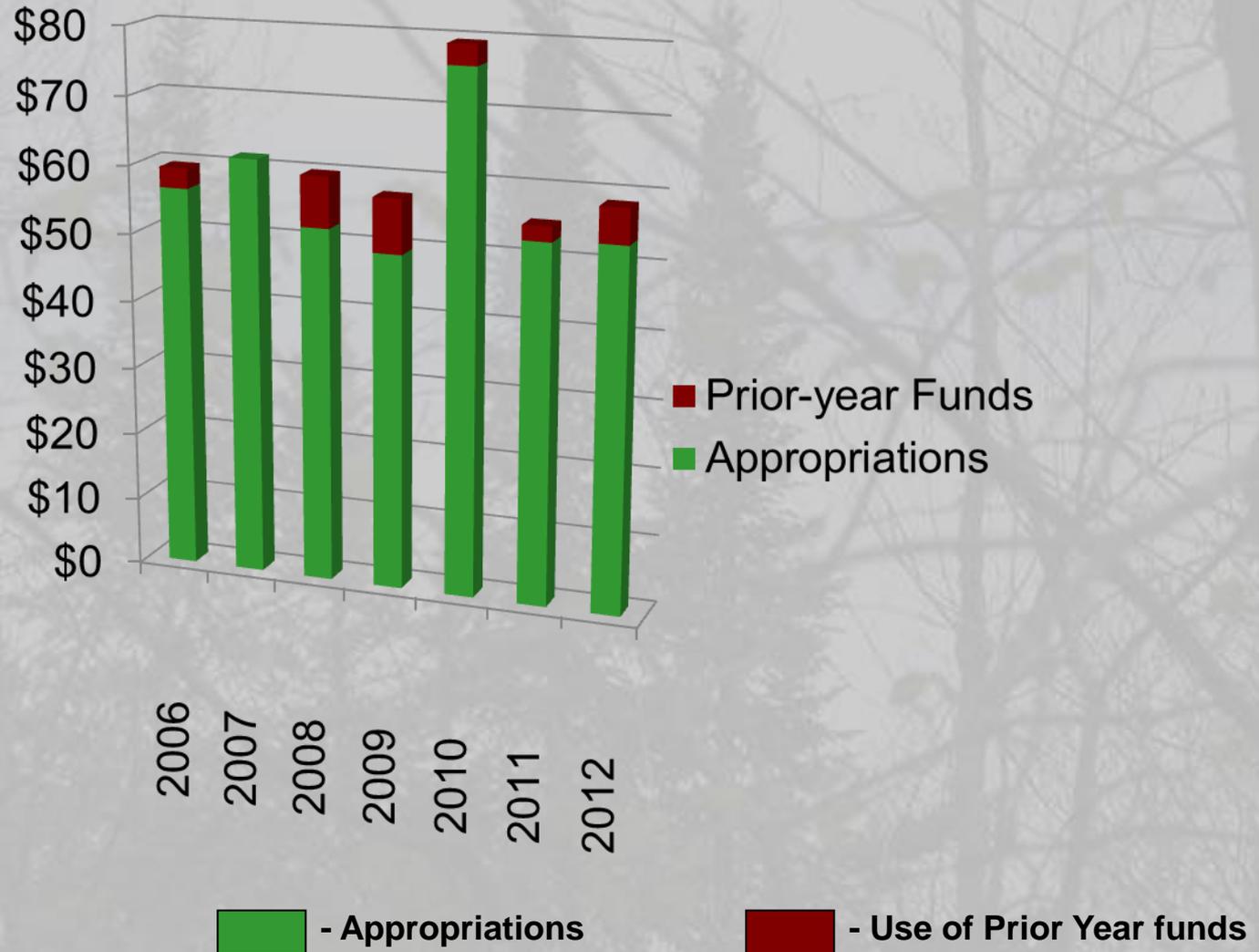


Conservation easement monitoring training – New York

- States agree to monitor Forest Legacy tracts upon joining the program.
 - Baseline documentation
- Enforcement is the responsibility of the conservation easement holder.



Forest Legacy Program Funding History





For More Information



**Forest Legacy Program
USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area**

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/legacy>



Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program





a.k.a. Community Forest Program

The Community Forest Program (**CFP**) is a competitive grant program that provides financial assistance grants to local governments, Indian tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations to establish a community forest through fee simple land acquisition.



Eligible Entities (that can acquire Community Forest Properties)



- Local governmental entity
- Indian Tribes
- Qualified nonprofit organizations



Eligible Land (that can become a Community Forest)



Private Forests that:

Are threatened by conversion to nonforest uses;

Are not lands held in trust by the United States;

If acquired can provide defined community benefits under the CFP and allow public access.

Project contributes to a landscape conservation initiative:

There must be a contribution of the property to a landscape conservation initiative.



What about the community?

Community engagement:

The extent of the community involvement in the development and implementation of the Community Forest Plan, which implements strategies for public access and long-term management of the property, is an important consideration.



Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

For more information:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/cfp>

▪

Questions and Answers

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If you need to call in:

Future Webinar Topics

- Landscape-level planning for natural resource professionals
- Open space conservation efforts by other federal agencies (USDA, DOI, DoD, DOT)
- The art of using science to guide planning efforts

Session #5

Local and Regional Land Trusts: Essential partners and the tools they provide

Thursday, August 23 at 2:00 pm Eastern

- **Chuck Roe** - *Land Trust Alliance*
- **Gene Duvernoy** - *Forterra – Seattle, WA*
- **Carl Silverstein** - *Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy & Blue Ridge Forever Coalition – Asheville, NC*
- **Peter Stangel** - *US Endowment for Forestry and Communities - National Conservation Easement Database*

Give us your feedback!

www.fs.fed.us/openspace/webinars

Or Contact

Susan Stein – sstein@fs.fed.us

Sara Comas - scomas@fs.fed.us

Rick Pringle – rpringle@fs.fed.us