BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES

National Wildlife Refuge Association
refugeassociation.org

Northern Everglades

Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Florida

The Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area was established in 2012 as a result of unprecedented cooperation among federal agencies, state agencies, cattle ranchers, Everglades sportsmen, and conservation groups. This year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the opportunity realize the collaborative vision of the new refuge by working with willing sellers and partner agencies to conserve highest priority wildlife habitat and water resources.

EVERGLADES HEADWATERS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND CONSERVATION AREA | CARLTON WARD, JR.

FY16 Request

In FY16, the commitment of $10 million in funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund is essential to continuing the momentum of this multi-partner conservation effort. LWCF funds will be matched by state funding programs including Florida Forever and the Rural & Family Lands Protection Program, as well as federal programs through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI).

To date, $12.5 million in LWCF funding has been committed to the Everglades Headwaters and several key acquisitions are now moving forward to secure both fee additions to the Refuge and conservation easements. Land values in this rebounding real estate market are high, and the objective of the Conservation Area is to conserve large blocks of contiguous land as wildlife corridors and water storage resources, thus conservation projects will require multiple sources of funding and will advance in incremental phases.

The Time is Now

In 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the opportunity to purchase conservation easements from willing sellers but the timing is critical. As the real estate market recovers landowners are facing difficult decisions. These landowners, members of the locally formed Northern Everglades Alliance, have championed the efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and are eager to become long-term partners in managing their lands for wildlife, water, and as working cattle ranches. Now is the time to bring state and federal partners together to create a legacy of wildlife, water resources, and a rural way of life.

Request Summary

Source:	Land and Water Conservation Fund
Agency:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FY16 Request:	$10 million
Acreage:	25,000 acres
Type:	Fee and Conservation Easements
Counties:	Okeechobee, Osceola, Polk
Congressional Districts:	FL-8, FL-9, FL-17, FL-18,

Project Partners

- Northern Everglades Alliance
- Sportsmen's Trust Group
- Audubon of Florida
- Florida Wildlife Federation
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Forever, FL Dept of Environmental Protection
- Florida Rural & Family Lands Protection Program
- National Wildlife Refuge Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resource Values

- Wet and dry prairie
- Florida scrub and flatwoods
- Florida grasshopper sparrow
- Florida scrub jay
- Everglades snail kite
- Osceola turkey
- Gopher tortoise
- Florida black bear, Florida panther

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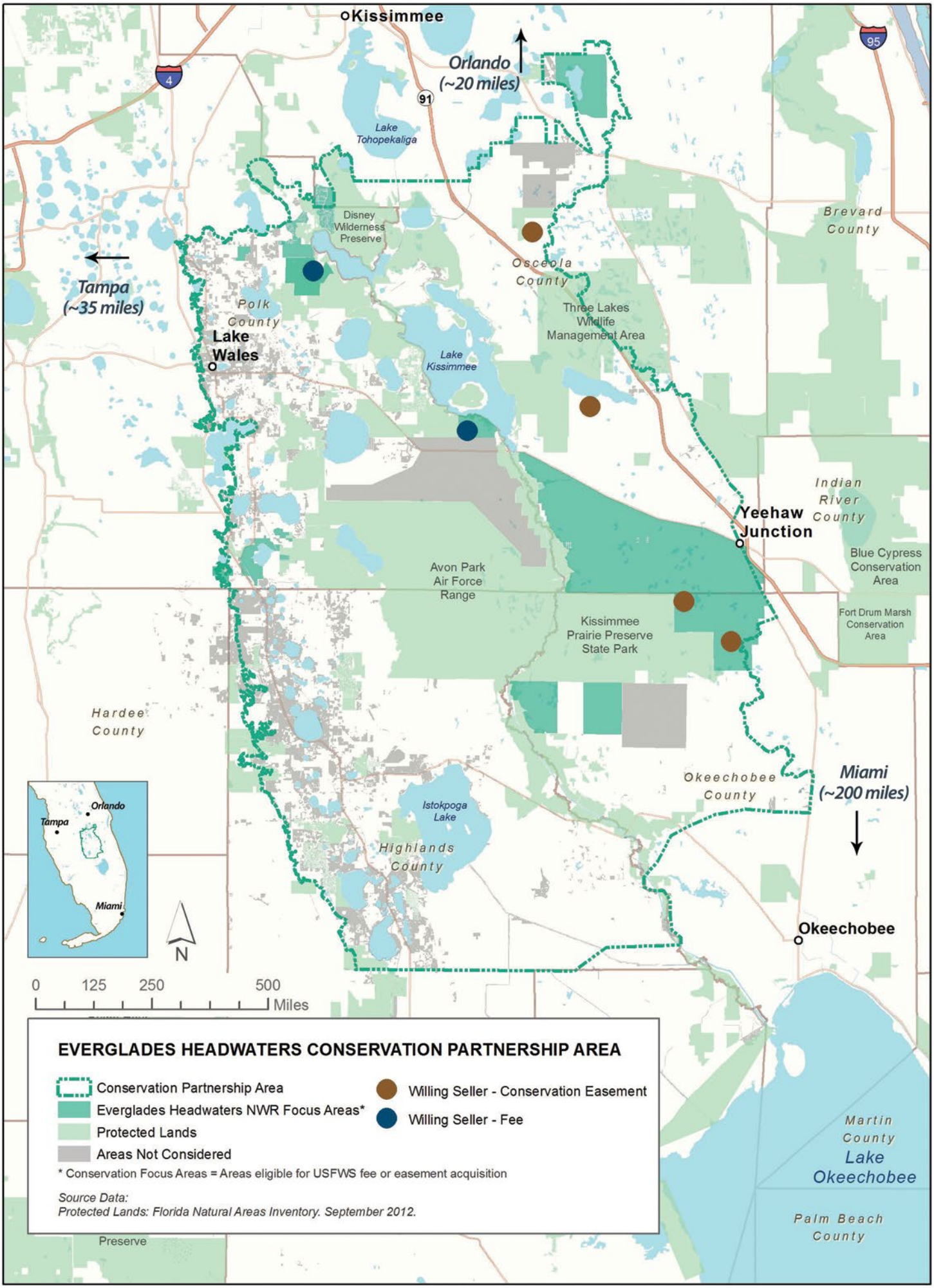
Kissimmee
Orlando
(~20 miles)
Lake
Tohopekaliga
Disney
Wilderness
Preserve
Brevard
County
Osceola
County
Tampa
(~35 miles)
Polk
County
Lake
Wales
Three Lakes
Wildlife
Management Area
Lake
Kissimmee
Indian
River
County
Yeehaw
Junction
Blue Cypress
Conservation
Area
Avon Park
Air Force
Range
Fort Drum Marsh
Conservation
Area
Kissimmee
Prairie Preserve
State Park
Hardee
County
Okeechobee
County
Miami
(~200 miles)
Istokpoga
Lake
Highlands
County
Orlando
Tampa
Miami
N
0
125
250
500
Miles
Okeechobee
Martin
County
Lake
Okeechobee
Palm Beach
County
Preserve
EVERGLADES HEADWATERS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP AREA
Conservation Partnership Area
Everglades Headwaters NWR Focus Areas*
Protected Lands
Areas Not Considered
Willing Seller - Conservation Easement
Willing Seller - Fee
* Conservation Focus Areas = Areas eligible for USFWS fee or easement acquisition
Source Data:
Protected Lands: Florida Natural Areas Inventory. September 2012.