

Florida State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grant Program has played an important role in the conservation of Florida's wildlife. The following are some projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



*Butterfly Monitoring,
Photo Courtesy of Florida
FWCC*

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network

Butterflies are an important part of Florida's wildlife and their presence is often used to indicate that a natural environment is healthy. Using State Wildlife Grants, the Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network will start a citizen scientist monitoring program to survey butterfly populations. The information gained on butterfly abundance and distribution will be used to better develop species conservation strategies, identify important areas, and evaluate management or recovery actions. This will lead to proactive, cost-effective decisions concerning wildlife and vital natural areas.



*Canoeing the Chipola
River, Photo Courtesy of
Florida FWCC*

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife Chipola River Watershed Partnership

Clean water in our rivers is important for our economy and our health. The Chipola River Watershed Partnership will protect and enhance the Chipola River by creating ways for citizens and natural resource managers to communicate. Through the Partnership, private landowners and local, state and federal agencies will develop a management plan that incorporates both socio-economic and environmental interests. This effort will ensure that landowners' rights are protected and that business and community interests are served while conserving the river for future generations.



*Gulf Stream Monitoring,
Photo Courtesy of Florida
FWCC*

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People Gulf Coastal Stream Monitoring

Gulf coastal streams contain the greatest diversity of fish species in Florida. With the help of State Wildlife Grants, the Gulf Coastal Stream Monitoring project is developing a comprehensive plan to monitor the health of fish species and these streams. This plan will be used to assess the effectiveness of management actions, determine ecosystem health and describe how species and habitats are linked. Such information helps biologists and decision makers act to protect clean water, making both wildlife and people healthier.

Congress has appropriated \$15.5 million in State Wildlife Grants to Florida since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$5.4 million state and partner dollars.