

FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR EXPEDITION

FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR EXPEDITION: EVERGLADES TO OKEEFENOKEE - A THOUSAND MILES THROUGH THE HEART OF FLORIDA

The vision of the Florida Wildlife Corridor is to connect natural lands and waters throughout peninsular Florida, from the Everglades to Okeefenokee in southeast Georgia. Despite extensive fragmentation of the landscape in recent decades, a statewide network of connected natural areas is still possible. The first step is raising awareness about the fleeting opportunity we have to connect natural and rural landscapes in order to protect the waters that sustain us, the working farms and ranches that feed us, the forests that clean our air, and the combined habitat these lands provide for Florida's diverse wildlife, including panthers and black bears.

Our goal is to increase public awareness for the Corridor idea through a broad-reaching media campaign, with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition as the center of the outreach strategy. January 17, 2012 marks the kick off the 1000 mile expedition over a 100 day period to increase public awareness and generate support for the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

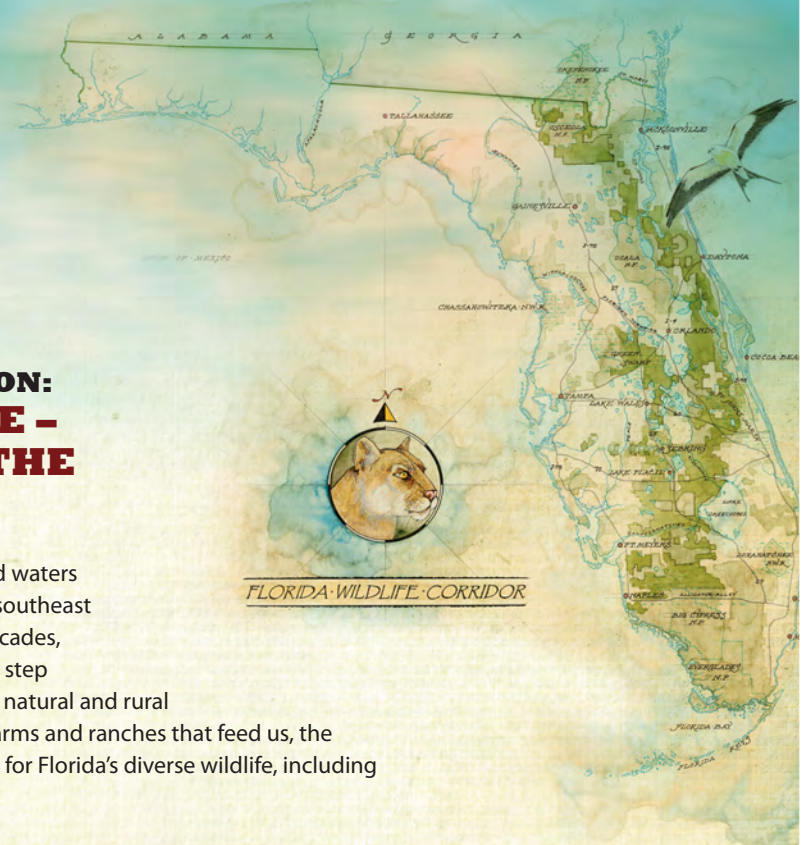
Photographer Carlton Ward Jr, bear biologist Joe Guthrie, conservationist Mallory Lykes Dimmitt and filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus will trek from the Everglades National Park toward Okefenokee National Forest in southern Georgia. They will traverse the wildlife habitats, watersheds and participating working farms and ranches, which comprise the Florida Wildlife Corridor opportunity area.

The team will document the corridor through photography, video, radio reports, daily updates on social media networks, and a host of activities for reporters, landowners, celebrities, conservationists, politicians and other guests. Award-winning cinematographer Elam Stoltzfus will document the expedition to produce a film about the journey and the Florida Wildlife Corridor for public television and other networks.

Major landmarks include: Everglades National Park, Big Cypress, Everglades Agricultural Area, Northern Everglades, Okaloacoochee Slough, Caloosahatchee River, Babcock Ranch, Seminole Tribal Lands, Fisheating Creek, Lake Okeechobee, Kissimmee River, Lake Wales Ridge, Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Green Swamp, Disney Wilderness Preserve, Orlando, Ocala National Forest, St. Johns River, Osceola National Forest.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please make a tax-deductible contribution to the Florida Wildlife Corridor through The WILD Foundation or via National Geographic Action Atlas. WILD is the Florida Wildlife Corridor's fiscal agent; donations to WILD will go directly to the Florida Wildlife Corridor expedition and public awareness campaign. Please help share the Florida Wildlife Corridor idea through your social networks and media contacts. Learn more at FloridaWildlifeCorridor.org and on our Facebook page. Become a fan and track our progress!



FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR KEY ISSUES:

- Protecting and restoring dispersal and migration corridors essential for the survival of Florida's diverse wildlife, including wide-ranging panthers and black bears and all of the game and other species that live on the same land
- Restoring the the Everglades watershed, protecting the Everglades headwaters, and sustaining water supply to southern Florida
- Safeguarding the St. Johns River and water supply from near Orlando north to Jacksonville
- Sustaining the food production, economies and cultural legacies of working ranches and farms
- Giving people and wildlife room to adapt to climate change

