

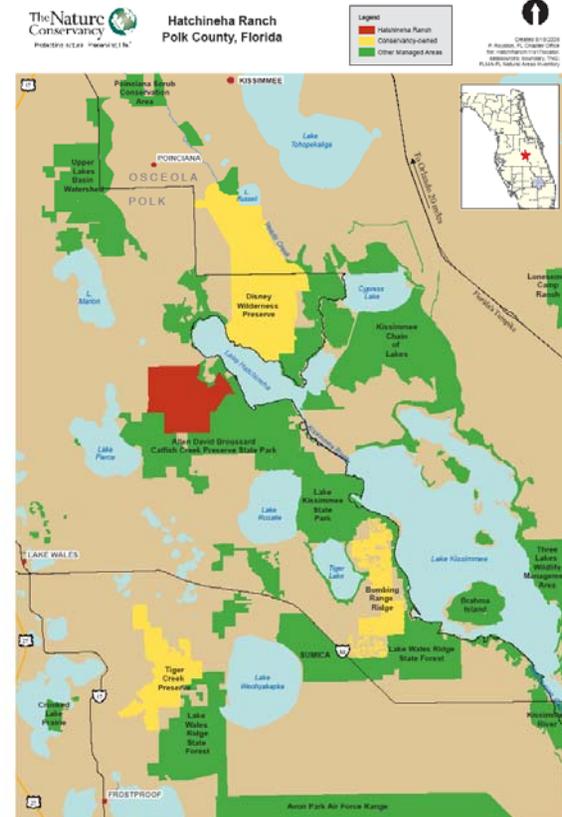
# Greater Everglades Strategic Habitat Conservation Initiative



October 28, 2010

# Project Beginnings

- Late spring 2009
- Service approached by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA)
- Hatchineha Ranch
- 5,134 acre working cattle ranch
- As an addition to Lake Wales Ridge NWR



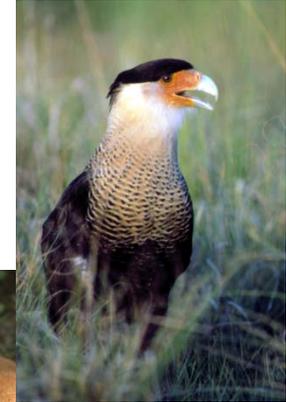
# Hatchineha Ranch

- Rare habitats:  
Cutthroat wetlands,  
scrub, sandhill
- Many additional values:  
Everglades Headwaters,  
recreation and  
education
- Didn't fit the existing  
paradigm of closed  
refuge
- Almost walked away



# Discussion Topics

- Everglades Restoration
- T&E species: sparrow, kite, panther
- America's Great Outdoors
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC's) and Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC)
- Climate Change
- New tools: Conservation Banks
- Partnerships
- Rural ranching landscape



# From Opportunity to Scientific Assessment

- Met with ranching community
- Key focal species/habitats - cutthroat wetlands, Florida panther, Florida grasshopper sparrow, Everglades snail kite
- Also recognized need for comprehensive assessment of resources



# Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge

- Preliminary Project Proposal (PPP) approved on August 25
- Identifies 50,000 acres of fee and 100,000 acres of easement
- Conservation Area as acquisition boundary



# Conservation Areas

- As an administrative boundary allows for fee, easement, conservation banks, Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), management agreements
- Recent discussions with NRCS, FWC, TNC, NWRA, and FWS with collective agreement to coordinate/ collaborate
  - Top 30<sup>th</sup> percentile ranking from integrated map
  - Each partner focuses on their individual agency interest
  - Partner agencies and landowners key component

# The Planning Process

- Signed PPP
- Initiate Detailed Planning
  - Background information
  - Scientific data
  - Map development
  - Coordinate with partners
- NEPA/EA
- ESA/Section 7
- Contaminant survey
- Public Outreach
  - Web site for planning updates
  - News releases
  - Public meetings
  - Congressional and legislator contacts
  - Special interest groups
  - Individual landowners