

ACES Workshop Summary

I. Title:

Florida's Cooperative Conservation Blueprint: A Scientifically Based Statewide Ecosystem Services Program for Private Lands

Description:

The goal of this workshop is to provide an overview and understanding of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project and the Cooperative Conservation Blueprint Project. An educational workshop showing how Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in conjunction with the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida, has developed a public-private partnership to develop and incentivize private land owners to engage in ecosystem services projects. CCB is based on the Critical Lands and Water Identification Project (CLIP), which is a scientific analysis of the entire state's areas of ecological significance conducted by the GeoPlan Center at the University of Florida and Florida Natural Areas Inventory at Florida State University. The workshop will show how that scientific data can be incorporated into a practical plan for ecosystem services utilization on a comprehensive scale.

Agenda:

1. Description of the Critical Lands and Water Inventory Project (45 Min)
2. Discussion of Ecosystem Services Efforts and Economics (45 Min)
3. Discussion of the Cooperative Conservation Blueprint Project (45 Minutes)
4. Update on Findings in CCB Process (15 Minutes)
5. Panel and Audience discussion (30 Minutes)

II. Discussion:

Florida has significant conservation issues that have resulted in the most aggressive public land purchase program of any state. The Florida Forever Act allocated \$3B over a ten year period from 2000 until 2010. In 2008, the Florida Legislature renewed its commitment to land preservation by another \$3B commitment for the next ten years. However, it has become quite evident that the increased value of land over the last several years limits the amount of acreage that can be acquired. Incentives can play a significant role in leveraging the private sector in making the decision to be engaged in conservation activities and projects. As a pre-cursor to that effort it is essential to find those lands that are critical to water recharge and storage, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and other conservation concerns.

Target audience:

Industry

- Regulatory Agencies
- Policy makers
- Land Owners and Developers
- NGOs
- Land Planners
- Consultants

III. Organizer's Qualifications

As Executive Director of Florida Earth Foundation, Stan Bronson has led in the development of a variety of educational and facilitation programs including:

1. The Florida Earth Project Course Series – A series of modules on natural resource science and policy with over 100 participating instructors from many partners in the project
2. The UNESCO-IHE/Florida Earth Partnership – The only permanent educational program between Florida and the United Nations
3. The Florida Land Use Initiative – A series of one-day workshops completed in March of this year to look at tools for preservation of private lands
4. The Blue-Green Project – A facilitation project that develops retreats between the Florida Council of 100 and CEO-level representatives of the environmental community to find ways to work together in the 21st century.

IV. Tentatively Confirmed / Proposed Speakers

1. Dr. Tom Hctor – University of Florida GeoPlan Center. Partner in the CLIP process
2. John Oetting – Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida State University, Conservation Planner and partner in CLIP process
3. Dr. Thomas Eason – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and head of the Cooperative Conservation Blueprint project
4. Dr. Laila Racevskis – Economist with University of Florida IFAS working on ecosystem services inventories worldwide
5. Dr. Tatiana Borisova – Economist with University of Florida IFAS working on ecosystem services values

V. Workshop Organizers

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