



Protecting nature. Preserving life.

The Nature Conservancy in Florida 2022 Florida Legislative Results Report

Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature have made their focus on conservation and support for the environment a priority, through the allocation of significant funding to programs that are critical to a sustainable future for our state and our health and well-being.

The passage of HB 7053 means Florida will now have a permanent Chief Resilience Officer in the Office of the Governor with the unanimous passage in the Senate of CS/HB 7053—Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience. The bill strengthens Florida’s commitment to addressing the effects of sea level rise and flooding, and we hope the Legislature and Governor build on this effort during the 2023 legislative session by also addressing the causes of climate change and other effects of climate change.

Thanks to the positive strides taken by Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature, conservation in our state continues to move in a productive direction.

With that said, HB 741 will constrain the growth of residential solar and be a deterrent to an expanded and resilient source of power for Floridians.

In Florida, nature isn’t out there — it’s right here. Together, we are responsible for securing a better quality of life for Floridians and the best possible future. It is now imperative to follow these achievements with action and begin implementation to secure the protection of Florida’s natural resources that we all depend upon.

Temperince Morgan
Executive Director
The Nature Conservancy, Florida

Policy

Senate Bill 1000 – Nutrient Application Rates

The Nature Conservancy works with farmers in Florida to support the implementation of the [4R Nutrient Stewardship](#) program. The 4R Nutrient Stewardship program is:

- **Right source** - Matches fertilizer type to crop needs.
- **Right rate** - Matches amount of fertilizer to crop needs.
- **Right time** - Makes nutrients available when crops need them.
- **Right place** - Keeps nutrients where crops can use them.

TNC worked with the bill’s sponsor to enhance the bill to incorporate the 4Rs as applied to site-specific nutrient application to protect water quality and enhance crop yield.

HB 7053 – Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience

For years, TNC has advocated for a formalized statewide Chief Resilience Officer and this bill delivers. Additionally, the bill requires the state to complete comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set and assessment and requires the state to address the impacts of flooding and sea level rise on the State Highway System, and build on the Florida Legislature’s efforts to prepare Florida for the effects of sea level rise and flooding.

HB 741 - Net Metering

HB 741 is not good for the expansion of solar power generation in Florida. The bill will constrain the growth of residential solar, and be a deterrent to an expanded and resilient source of power for Floridians. The Legislature should support the deployment of renewable energy by all users including residents, businesses, local governments, schools, and other public facilities.

SB 2508 - Environmental Resources

This bill’s introduction was a complete surprise and was introduced as a “budget conforming bill” that only required one committee hearing, giving TNC very little time for outreach and lobby activities. Subsequent amendments removed problematic language that would have caused water management problems in south Florida. The bill makes substantial changes to the Rural and Family Lands program in Florida’s Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). TNC has supported the Rural and Family Lands program since introduction and helped farmers enroll and Florida has benefitted from this program. Starting in January 2023 when these changes take effect, TNC looks forward to working with the team at FDACS to implement the new Rural and Family Lands program to conserve Florida’s agricultural lands while improving water quality, habitat protections and ensuring agriculture remains a part of Florida’s landscape.

Appropriations - in the approved 2022 Florida Budget

Florida Forever	\$100,000,000
Rural & Family Lands	\$300,000,000
Everglades Restoration Total	\$352,623,196
Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan	\$202,123,196
Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir	\$64,000,000
Restoration Strategies	\$86,500,000
Northern Everglades	\$73,276,213
C-51 Palm Beach County	\$65,000,000
Preventing Discharges to Caloosahatchee/St. Lucie	\$350,000,000
Innovative Technologies/Blue Green Algae	\$15,000,000
Dispersed Water Storage	\$5,000,000
Springs Restoration	\$75,000,000
Wastewater Construction	\$264,829,130
Wastewater Grant Program	\$125,000,000
Total Maximum Daily Loads	\$50,000,000
Local Water Projects	\$368,380,383
Pensacola/Perdido Estuary Program Oyster	\$495,000
Choctawhatchee Bay Oyster	\$500,000
Bivalves to reduce nutrients FDEP Pilot	\$4,000,000

Biscayne Bay Septic to Sewer	\$20,000,000
Florida Keys	\$20,000,000
Alt. Water Supply	\$50,000,000
MFLs for NFWFMD & SRWMD	\$3,446,000
Land Management by WMDS	\$10,237,210
Div. of Forestry Land Management	\$14,902,162
Div. of State Lands Land Management	\$3,660,358
Parks Land Management	\$2,847,747
Invasive Plant Management	\$34,233,031
Regional Resilience Coalitions	\$2,000,000
SLIP Tool	\$2,900,000
Data Collection for Statewide Vulnerability Study	\$7,100,000
Flood Hub	\$5,500,000
Resilient Florida Planning Grants (from Resilient FL TF)	\$20,000,000
Resilient Florida Flooding & SLR Resilience Plan	\$270,874,990
Coral Reefs	\$8,000,000
Mote Coral	\$1,000,000
Beach Renourishment	\$50,000,000
Florida Blue Economy	\$320,000