

State Of Florida

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Florida Wildlife Corridor is an outreach campaign to raise awareness about the opportunity and significance of protecting a connected corridor of public and private conservation and agricultural lands throughout Florida providing multiple conservation, social, and economic values; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition team trekked 1000 miles over 100 days from the Everglades to Georgia, transcending cultural, political and geographic boundaries to celebrate conservation lands, connect people to places still in need of protection, and ultimately help reconnect the fragmented lands and waters in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Wildlife Corridor builds on decades of work by numerous conservation organizations, government agencies and individuals, creating the opportunity to connect what remains of these lands and waters and also includes the state's ecological network; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Ecological Greenways Network, a part of the legislatively adopted Florida Greenways Plan administered by the Office of Greenways and Trails in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, provides the scientific foundation for the Florida Wildlife Corridor; and

WHEREAS, a statewide ecological network including the Florida Wildlife Corridor greatly enhances the ability to sustain Florida's wildlife and ecosystems while supporting Florida's rural and tourism based economies; and

WHEREAS, protection and restoration of habitat and migration corridors are essential for the survival of Florida's diverse wildlife, including wide-ranging Florida panthers, Florida black bear and other native species that represent Florida's natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, protection of the Florida Wildlife Corridor also provides essential ecosystem services such as a clean and adequate water supply, storm protection, healthy soils, and clean air for people and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, restoration of water flow and water quality to the Everglades, the St. Johns River, and other important watersheds throughout the state are critical goals of the Florida Wildlife Corridor; and

WHEREAS, ranches and timberlands are an essential part of the Florida Wildlife Corridor and provide native wildlife habitat and ecosystem services while maintaining vital sectors of Florida's economy and heritage; and

WHEREAS, conservation easements are an important land planning option for private landowners to maintain land uses compatible with the Florida Wildlife Corridor while maintaining private ownership and management; and

WHEREAS, through increased opportunities for fishing, bird watching, hunting and other forms of tourism, the economies of communities within and surrounding the Florida Wildlife Corridor stand to be strengthened by its protection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida do hereby acknowledge the vital importance of the

FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

to the ecological, cultural, and economic health of the State of Florida, as well as, recognize the important opportunity the campaign provides to support efforts to protect Florida's wildlife, ecosystems, tourism, and agricultural landscapes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet recognize the significant benefits of having a continuous ecological corridor connecting the entire length of Florida for the health of wildlife, the quality of water and air, the preservation of cultural history, and the revitalization of local economies.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee on this the 4th day of June, 2013.

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

PAM BONDI
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JEFF ATWATER
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

ADAM H. PUTNAM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE