

# Amendment 1: Water and Land Conservation for Florida

Rivers Coalition meeting  
October 30, 2014

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Audubon Florida

**VOTE**  
**YES**  **ON 1**

# What is Amendment 1?

- Dedicates funding for water and land conservation, management, and restoration by amending the state constitution.
- Sets aside 33% of documentary stamp taxes and guarantees that these funds can only be used for conservation purposes.

**VOTE**  
**YES**  **ON 1**

- Amendment 1 is not a new tax – it just designates money already collected for conservation.
- Amendment 1 would not increase taxes now or in the future. The Financial Impact Statement on the ballot, prepared by the State Financial Impact Estimating Conference (the state’s budget writers), determined that it will have no impact on state revenues because it imposes no new taxes.
- Amendment 1 designates less than 1% of the state budget per year.
- This is the same funding source that the state has used for water and land conservation since 1968.

**VOTE**  
**YES**  **ON 1**

# Why do we need to amend the state constitution?

- Since 2009, the Legislature has dramatically reduced funding for water and land protection, cutting key programs by more than 95%. Amendment 1 would ensure that water and land conservation projects are adequately funded – the funds cannot be diverted to other purposes – without increasing taxes. The only way to secure significant, sustainable resources for water and land conservation, management and restoration for the long-term is to take this issue directly to Florida voters through a constitutional amendment.

**VOTE  
YES  ON 1**

## How will the money be spent?

The funds dedicated by Amendment 1 will:

- Restore, manage, and acquire lands necessary to protect Florida's drinking water sources and protect the water quality in our rivers, lakes and streams;
- Protect our beaches and shores;
- Protect and restore the Everglades and other degraded natural systems and waterways;
- Manage fish and wildlife habitat, protect forests and wetlands, and restore conservation lands that are an important part of Florida's economy and quality of life;
- Provide funding to manage existing state and local natural areas, parks, and trails for water supply, habitat and recreation.

# Indian River Lagoon Blueway

- Completion of this project would preserve and improve natural communities within the Indian River Lagoon, one of the most biologically diverse estuaries in North America. One-third of the country's manatee population lives in the Indian River, which is also important for many migratory birds. Protecting the Blueway would help buffer five aquatic preserves from coastal development—supporting important commercial and recreational fisheries, protecting wading bird rookeries, and providing public opportunities to fish, hike, and canoe.
- Seventy-two percent of the project area has yet to be protected.
- Counties: Brevard, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, Volusia



# The Everglades

- The Everglades is the primary source of drinking water for more than 7 million people—more than one third of Florida’s population—and is home to an extraordinary diversity of animals, including threatened species like the Florida panther, countless wading birds, and the iconic alligator.
- In 2000, Congress passed the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), putting in motion the largest and most ambitious ecosystem restoration plan in the country.
- CERP sets forth more than 60 different projects to restore ecosystems, provide flood protection, and ensure clean and abundant water supplies for South Florida's residents.
- Decades remain before completion.



# What can YOU do?

- **VOTE!**
  - Election Day is November 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Early voting ends November 1<sup>st</sup> in Martin County and November 2<sup>nd</sup> in St. Lucie County
- Spread the word – tell your friends, share information about the amendment on social media

