

FEATURE – USDA PARTNERS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, GROUPS

INTRO: The U.S. Department of Agriculture is cooperating with local governments, groups and landowners to implement conservation programs. USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:32)

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS REQUIRE RESOURCES AND MANPOWER. BUT THEY ALSO REQUIRE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND PARTICIPATION. THAT'S WHY THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS PARTNERING WITH STATE AGENCIES AND LANDOWNERS TO IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS. IN ONE CASE, U-S-D-A'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE IS WORKING WITH FLORIDA'S FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO HELP A LANDOWNER IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITAT ON HIS PROPERTY.

Gene Borcz, Walton County, Florida Landowner: About fifteen years ago I started to try to enhance wildlife on the property...not only enhancing wildlife but the integration of a variety of different services that have not only been able to help me enrich the wildlife but the agriculture and the trees.

N-R-C-S IS WORKING WITH THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION PRACTICES ON THE PROPERTY.

Darryl Williams, USDA NRCS: From this agreement the landowner benefits through the expertise of the partner. NRCS employees and staff benefit from the work they do and helping us with the management of that plan. The wildlife itself on the ground has a total benefit.

Arlo Kane, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission: We have a great relationship with the District Conservationists. It allows us to get onto properties that they are familiar with and to bring them into properties that we have been working with for years and we're able to bring their expertise in here to help them do some things that we don't have an expertise in.

THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION IS REIMBURSED FOR THEIR WORK AS N-R-C-S TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS. I'M BOB ELLISON FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.