







An Update on Our Continuing Pine Rockland Restoration Projects

By:
Sarah Martin
IRC Pine Rockland Initiative Program Coordinator and Biologist





IRC'S Mission:

A private non-profit organization, The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and longterm management of biodiversity on a regional basis, and to the prevention of regional extinctions of rare plants, animals and ecosystems.

IRC's Programs that Support Our Mission:

Regional Conservation Models

Applied Conservation Science

Ecological Restoration and Management

Outreach and Education





















Regional Conservation Models

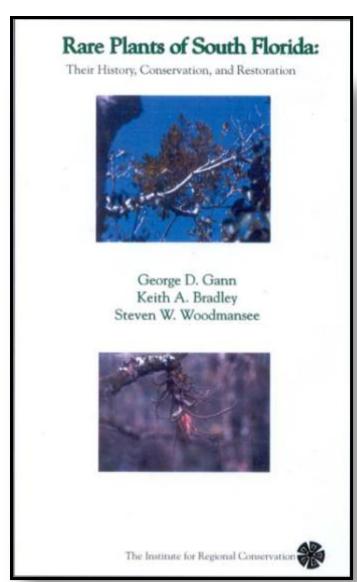
Floristic Databases Online



In 1994, IRC initiated the Floristic Inventory of South Florida to collect baseline data on the status of native plant species.

What was accomplished?

- Assessed status of native species, identified rare species
- Determined effectiveness of existing conservation areas, including small conservation areas, to conserve native plant species
- Identified opportunities to restore rare plants and their habitat

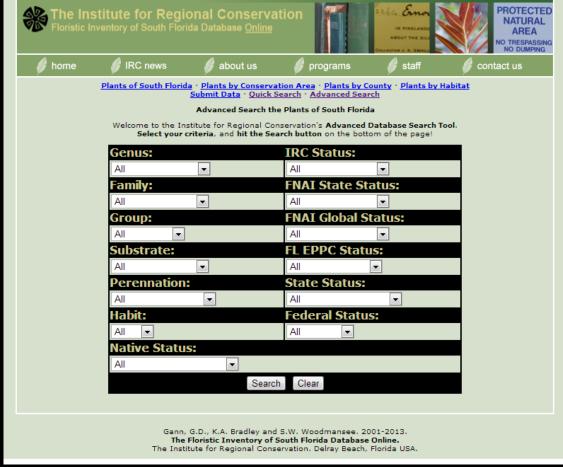




IRC Floristic Inventory of South Florida













Ipomoea microdactyla Griseb. Man-in-the-ground, 'Bejuco colorado'

<u>Plants of South Florida</u> · <u>Plants by Conservation Area</u> · <u>Plants by County</u> · <u>Plants by Habitat</u> <u>Submit Data</u> · <u>Quick Search</u> · <u>Advanced Search</u>

Family: Convolvulaceae

Group: Dicot

Substrate: Terrestrial

Habit: Vine

Perennation: Perennial

Native Range: Scattered in South Florida (Miami-Dade County) and the West Indies

 $(Cuba, Bahamas, Puerto\ Rico\ [Mona\ Island\ only]).$

Nature Serve Global Status: Imperiled

State of Florida Status: Endangered

FNAI State Status: S1S2

SOUTH FLORIDA Occurrence: Present

SOUTH FLORIDA Native Status: Native

IRC SOUTH FLORIDA Status: Imperiled

SOUTH FLORIDA Cultivated Status: Cultivated

Comments: Visit our Natives For Your Neighborhood website for more information and

images.



Jorge Carlos Trejo Torres, Ph.D., IRC's newest research associate, launched the website "Las Plantas del Mayab."





karsensis@yahoo.com.mx

Mayab is a region of the Yucatán peninsula in

Mexico. The website provides information about native and naturalized plants in the region, provides lists of plants for specific uses, and links to native plant nurseries and other informational sites.





Floristic Inventory of the Bahama Archipelago Online

IRC Chief Conservation Strategist George Gann is currently collaborating with other regional botanists working on a <u>Floristic Inventory of the Bahama Archipelago Online</u>, and we hope to have a public site up by year's end.

We need financial support for this endeavor...

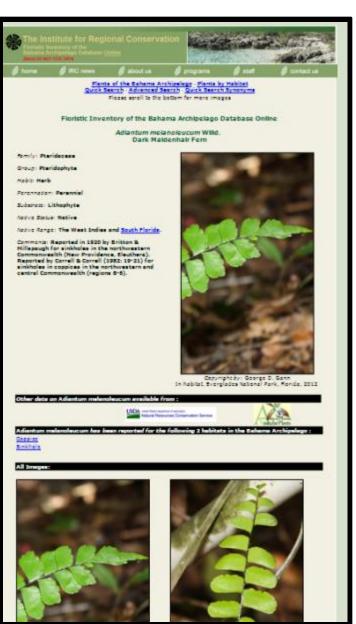
Contact George Gann if interested!







gann@regionalconservation.org





IRC Natives For Your Neighborhood













Why Natives For Your Neighborhood?



- Provide additional habitat and support for native species outside protected areas.
- Empowers individuals to take action in local conservation.
- Creates urban habitat, connectivity, and promotes resilience to change.

The goals of NFYN are...



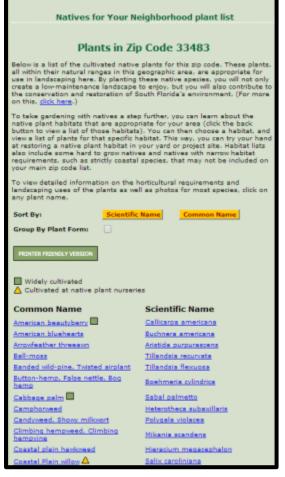
- Increase the success of native plant gardening and habitat restoration projects.
- Decrease problems caused by "native" plants escaping from cultivation outside of their historical ranges.
- Maximize the conservation benefits of native plantings by increasing connectivity of conservation areas native plant populations.
- Provide appropriate sources of food for native wildlife.
- Create a sense of place and an appreciation for each local area's native plant heritage.

Zip Code 33483 search for Native Plants, Habitats and Wildlife This is a long narrow zip code area in eastern Delray Beach and the town of Gulfstream on the island of Palm Beach in Palm Beach County, Information on strictly coastal or inland plants can be found by viewing habitat data for this zip Native Plants Whether you are just beginning a new native Click below to obtain plant project, or will be introducing native a list of native plants plants into an existing garden, this is the that are recommended place to find out which native plants are right for 33483, and to see for your specific area. photos and learn more about them. Get your plant list for 33483! Advance search for plants Habitats To take gardening with natives a step further, · You can try your you can learn about the plant and animal hand at ecological habitats that are native to your area. Here restoration in your yard you can also learn more about native habitats or project site by and ecosystems, and get a list of plants recreating a native native to this habitat that are recommended for your zip code. Click below to view a Read more about restoring native habitats in list of some native our Frequently Asked Questions section, and habitats for 33483. learn how you can attract wildlife such as birds and butterflies to your yard. Get your list of habitats for 33483! Wildlife · Click the button below to learn about the wildlife that may be expected in your area and what native plants can be planted and habitats created to attract them. Get your wildlife list for 33483!

Search by zip code and...

Retrieve lists of plants, habitats, and wildlife native to your area.



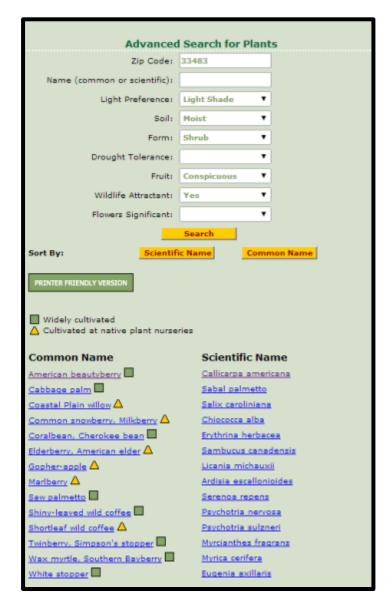




Species Pages

- Describe how specific plants can be utilized in landscapes and ecological restorations
- Where the plant can be found
- Description, height, growth rate, and range
- Habitats where it is typically found
- Requirements: soil, nutrients, salt tolerance, water, and light
- Flower and fruit descriptions
- Wildlife interactions
- Notes, comments, advice, and caveats

Other ways to search



- Advanced search forms let you find exactly what you are looking for.
 - A wildlife attracting shrub that will grow in light shade and has conspicuous fruits?



American Beautyberry



Coralbean

Habitats in Zip Code 33134 To take gardening with natives a step further, you can learn about the native plant habitats that are appropriate for your area. You can then choose a habitat, and view a list of plants for that specific habitat. This way. you can try your hand at restoring a native plant habitat in your yard or project site. Habitat lists also include some hard to grow natives and natives with narrow habitat requirements, such as strictly coastal species. that may not be included on your main zip code list. Bayhead Learn More Plant List Marl Prairie Learn More Plant List Pine Rockland Plant List Rockland Hammock

Wildlife and Habitat





Ceraunus Blue on Galactia smallii



Screech owl in nest box in a restored Pine Rockland



Palamedes Swallowtail on *Liatris*



Restored Rockland Hammock in Miami-Dade County yard.



Natives For Your Neighborhood: Statewide **Expansion In The Works**







Buchnera americana





Natives For Your Neighborhood: Range Maps In The Works





Study on life history traits of *Chamaesyce* deltoidea, *Chamaesyce garberi* and *Linum* arenicola on Big Pine Key





IRC Chief Executive Officer Craig van der Heiden, P.h.D. craig@regionalconservation.org





Chamaesyce deltoidea subsp. serpyllum seedling emerging through pine needles





1*1 m² quadrate divided into 10 cm squares to record individual *Chamaesyce deltoidea* subsp. serpyllum growth over time.





Measuring individual *Chamaesyce deltoidea* subsp. *serpyllum* in the 10*10 cm squares. Recorded number of flowers and survivability.





Chamaesyce deltoidea subsp. serpyllum





Linum arenicola tagged to record individual plants and monitor life history traits and survivability. Notice deer browse and plant sending out new shoots.







Tagged Linum arenicola seedling







Chamaesyce garberi







Small's milkpea, Galactia smallii

Sand flax, Linum arenicola





A total of 56 populations of *Galactia smallii* were mapped and quantified. Galactia smallii was found in varying quantities throughout the base with the lowest average density of 0.008/ m² and highest density of 3.12/ m². The average density is 0.379 ± 0.051 (SE)/m². The total population on HARB is estimated at 404,779±7,442 (SD)

plants.





Fewer populations of *Linum arenicola* were found on HARB. Nineteen populations were found with varying average densities; the lowest density $0.006/ \text{ m}^2$ and the highest $2/ \text{ m}^2$. The average density of sand flax is $0.213 \pm 0.058 \text{ (SE)/m}^2$. The population estimate for *Linum arenicola* on HARB is estimated at $31,399\pm2271 \text{ (SD)}$ plants.





During the Surveys:

- -2 Federal Trust Species, *Galactia smallii* and *Linum arenicola* were confirmed present.
- -25 state listed species were confirmed present.



Scientific Name	Common Name	State List
Angadenia berteroi	Pineland golden trumpet	Threatened
Bletia purpurea	Pinepink	Threatened
Byrsonima lucida	Locust berry	Threatened
Chaptalia albicans	White sunbonnets	Threatened
Coccothrinax argentata	Florida silver palm	Threatened
Crossopetalum ilicifolium	Quail berry	Threatened
Cynanchum blodgettii	Blodgett's swallowwort	Threatened
Galactia Smallii	Small's milkpea	Endangered
Ipomoea microdactyla	Man-in-the-ground	Endangered
Jacquemontia curtisii	Pineland cluster vine	Threatened
Lantana depressa	Rockland shrub verbena	Endangered
Linum arenicola	Sand flax	Endangered
Melanthera parvifolia	Pineland black anthers	Threatened
Odontosoria clavata	Wedgelet fern	Endangered
Phyla stoechadifolia	Southern fogfruit	Endangered
Psidium longipes	Long stalked stopper	Threatened
Pteris bahamensis	Bahama ladder brake	Threatened
Rhynchosia parvifolia	Small-leaf snoutbean	Threatened
Scutellaria havanensis	Havana scullcap	Endangered
Selaginella armata var. eatonii	Eaton's spike-moss	Endangered
Senna mexicana var. chapmanii	Bahama senna	Threatened
Smilax havanensis	Everglades greenbrier	Threatened
Spermacoce terminalis	Everglades false buttonweed	Threatened
Stylosanthes calcicola	Everglades key pencilflower	Endangered
Tetrazygia bicolor	West Indian-lilac	Threatened



IRC Applied Conservation Science: Homestead Air Reserve Base Special Operations Command Rare Plant Survey and Habitat Restoration

- -179 plant species were found on the SOC south management areas
- -41 of which are not considered native to south Florida
- -16 species listed as a category I or II invasive by FLEPPC
- -2 Federal Trust Species, *Galactia smallii* and *Linum arenicola* are present
- -24 species state listed species found present









IRC Applied Conservation Science: Homestead Air Reserve Base Special Operations Command Rare Plant Survey and Habitat Restoration





IRC Ecological Restoration and Management:

Homestead Air Reserve Base Special Operations Command

Rare Plant Survey and Pine Rockland Habitat Restoration





- --Estimates prior to the removal of exotic species in Management Area 1 for Small's milkpea were 0.84 ± 0.15 (SE)/m², and total estimates for sand flax were 0.49 ± 0.23 (SE)/m².
- -Estimates prior to the removal of exotic species in Management Area 2 for Small's milkpea were 0.47 ± 0.12 (SE)/m², and total estimates for sand flax were 0.40 ± 0.1 (SE)/m². "



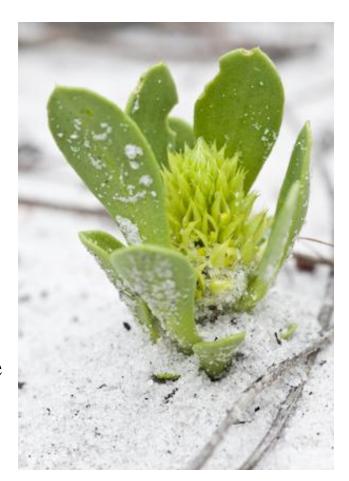
IRC Ecological Restoration and Management: IRC Ecological Restoration and Islandgement. East Ridge at Cutler Bay Retirement Community





East Ridge at Cutler Bay Pine Rockland

- Natural Area named "Larch Hammock" is 10 Acres of pine rockland and disturbed habitat
- In close proximity to Ned Glen Pine Rockland Preserve
- In process of uncovering pineland history (we need help with this, let us know if you have any historical info for the site!)
- Was on the MDC EEL property list at one time
- No prior management history
- Some previous wildfire history



Many rare species documented in pineland previously (2005-2006), including Small's milkwort, *Polygala smallii*



East Ridge at Cutler Bay Pine Rockland

How the project started

Jennifer Possley Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden



Nancy Fehr East Ridge at Cutler Bay



Sarah Martin Institute For Regional Conservation



East Ridge Pine Rockland Habitat Restoration and Management Goals

-Eradicate Invasive Species-

Plants such as Brazilian-pepper and Burmareed were treated.



-Reintroduce the natural fire cycle-

The East Ridge pine rockland has experienced wildlfire events, but the pineland is in need of a prescribed fire regime. Hardwood thinning may be an option in the meantime.





-Native Planting-Areas of may be planted to accelerate the restoration process.



-Long term management and planning-For successful habitat restoration results, long term management must be planned and implemented, or habitat <u>will return</u> to pre-treatment levels. IRC is working with East Ridge to incorporate pine rockland management into their yearly budget.

Habitat Restoration Progress East Ridge at Cutler Bay Pine Rockland

- Initial Treatment of Invasive Species
- Species list created
- Installation of 2 nest boxes
- Documentation of restoration work completed

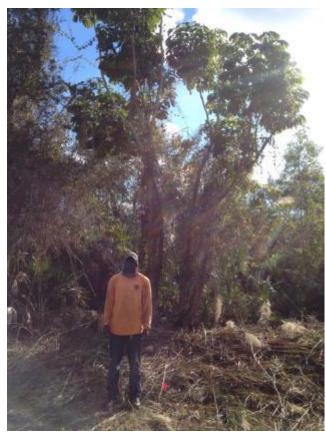


- -Initial Assessment of viable habitat
- -Invasive Burmareed (Neyraudia reynaudiana) was brush-cut and foliar treated
- -Invasive trees such as earleaf acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*) and Brazilian-pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) teated in-place
- -Invaded area adjacent treated to reduce seed source
- -Re-evaluation of viable pine rockland habitat potential



Day One of Treatment





Initial Assessment: No pines visible, entry without a machete is almost impossible. Habitat edges are made up of dense Burmareed and invasive trees. No pine rockland species are notable from the outside.



Treated:

- -257 Brazilian-pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)
- -421 earleaf acacia (Acacia auriculiformis)
- -263 lead tree (Leucaena leucocephala)
- -148 woman's tongue (*Albizia lebbeck*)
- -54 Queensland umbrella (*Schefflera* actinophylla)
- -43 Jasmine (*Jasminum dichotomum*)
- -3 Java plum (*Syzgium cumini*)
- -29 rosary pea (Abrus precatorius)
- -Brush-cut 3 acres of Burmareed (Neyraudia reynaudiana)







Open, sandy pockets with diverse herb and grass layer found throughout pineland interior, offering a glimpse of hope!







Atala butterfly, Eumaeus atala



Longstalk stopper, *Psidium longipes* (State endangered)



Prickly pear cactus (Opuntia humifusa)



Pineland clustervine (Jacquemontia curtisii) State threatened



Silver palm (Coccothrinax argentata) State threatened



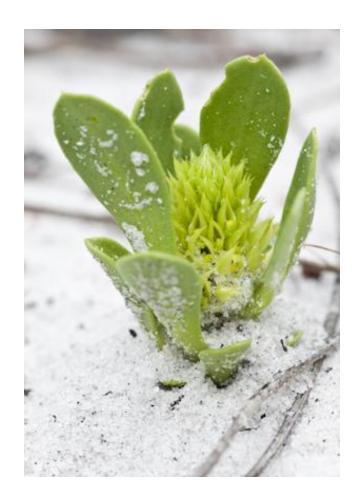
Quailberry (Crosspetalum ilicifolium) State endangered



Man-in-the-ground (Ipomoea microdactyla) State endangered



Gopher tortoise burrows

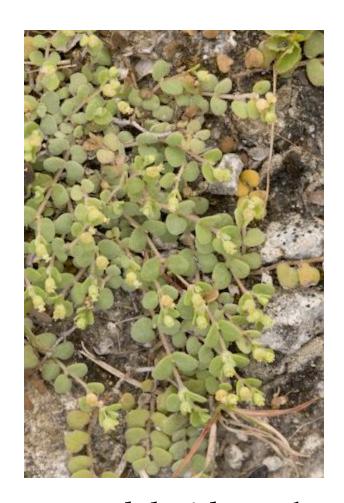


Small's milkwort (*Polygala smallii*) Federally endangered





IRC Ecological Restoration and Management: Gardenwalk Apartments Pine Rockland



Chamaesyce deltoidea subsp. adhaerens



IRC Ecological Restoration and Management: Palmetto Bay Village Center Pine Rockland and Rockland Hammock







IRC Ecological Restoration and Management: Palmetto Bay Village Center Pine Rockland and Rockland Hammock







Palmetto Bay and Cutler Bay Coastal Habitat Restoration Project



The Institute for Regional Conservation and the National Park Service have partnered with the Tropical Audubon Society of Florida, Palmetto Bay Village Center, South Florida Water Management District, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Florida Forestry, Village of Palmetto Bay, Town of Cutler Bay, Miami-Dade County and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Atlantic Coast Joint Venture to begin restoring more than 370 acres of migratory bird habitat along Florida Bay in

Miami-Dade County. <u>The Partnership was awarded the U.S. Small Grant</u> from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Division of Bird Habitat in 2013 to achieve goals outlined in the <u>North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989</u>.

The wetlands and uplands in the project area occur between SW 176th Street and SW 195th Street east of Old Cutler Road and extend outward to Florida Bay.

Restoration Activities Include:

- -Eradication of habitat-altering, non-native "invasive" species
- -A controlled burn to reintroduce the natural fire regime and reduce fuel loads in project area
- -Planting of native grasses and herbs in areas where non-native vegetation was treated to accelerate the restoration process and discourage recruitment of invasive species.
- -Installation of nesting bird boxes throughout the project area

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (P.L. 101-233) (December 13, 1989) authorizes a wetlands habitat program, administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, which provides grants to protect and manage wetland habitats for migratory birds and other wetland wildlife in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. A nine-member council meets periodically to decide which projects to fund. The program encourages private-public cost-sharing projects.

This piece of legislation has provided North America with different and effective ways to preserve the wetlands to ensure that wildlife and migratory birds' habitats are a safe and resourceful environment. More than 2,000 projects have been started over 3,000 collaborations with other organizations. These collaborations include private and public landowners and over 25 million acres in the United States.





Atlantic Coast Joint Venture

The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Vision:

"Partners working together for the conservation of native bird species in the Atlantic Flyway region of the United States."

The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture is one of fourteen habitat Joint Venture partnerships in the United States. The joint venture brings together public and private agencies, conservation groups, and other partners focused on the conservation of habitat for native birds in the Atlantic Flyway of the United States from Maine south to Puerto Rico.

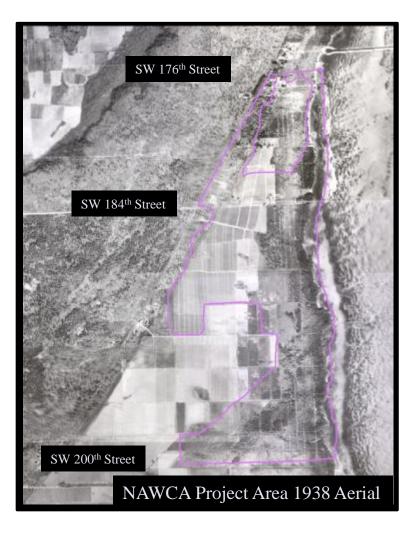
The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture encompasses the 17 Atlantic Flyway states and Puerto Rico. The habitats range from boreal forest and rocky coastlines to mangrove wetlands and coral reefs. Over 600 native bird species breed, migrate and winter in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture.

The mission of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture is to provide a forum for federal, state, regional and local partners to coordinate and improve the effectiveness of bird conservation planning and implementation in the Atlantic Flyway region of the United States.



Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Boundary In Green

Palmetto Bay and Cutler Bay Coastal Habitat Restoration Project Area







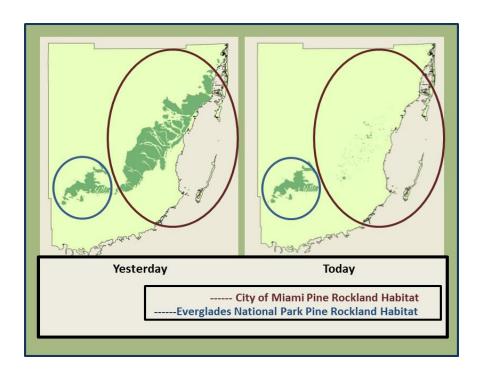
IRC Education and Outreach: Pine Rocklands



IRC leads volunteer work days, neighborhood workshops and educational events in an effort to reach out to the community about pine rockland conservation.



LET'S SAVE THE PINE ROCKLANDS...



NFC Acreage Decreasing Each Year SO MANY Pine Rocklands Up For Sale

Many private landowners are doing great, but there are still so many minds that need to change

Effects of invasive species taking their toll on the ecosystem

Effects of fire suppression taking their toll on the ecosystem

Effects of fragmentation, genetic isolation and biodiversity loss taking their toll on the ecosystem

Why Save The Pine Rocklands?

-Save the Ecosystem, Save Habitat-

Encourage a rich diversity of many different species of native birds, butterflies and other desirable wildlife.



-Improved neighborhood aesthetics— Native wildflowers, trees, shrubs and grasses put on a year round show for residents to enjoy.



-Lower maintenance costs –

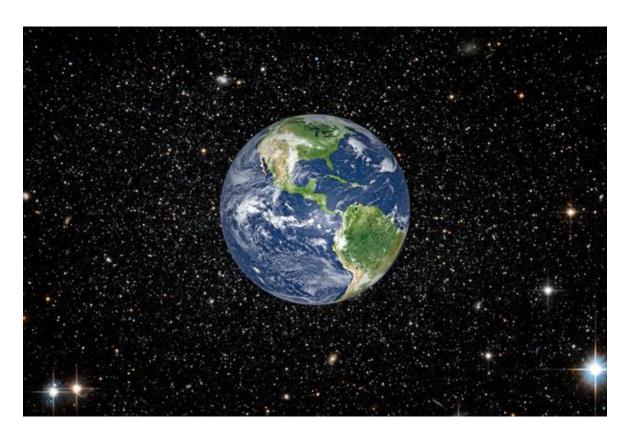
Over time, habitat restoration
now will decrease maintenance
costs later.



Global
Environmental
Health-Local
conservation projects
help make the world a
better place!

Thank You

IRC Staff, Partnering Agencies and Organizations, Donors, Volunteers and Enthusiastic Conservation Stewards Near and Far!



You Can Help: DONATE, COLLABORATE!

Tax deductible donations can be made on
The Institute For Regional Conservation's (IRC) website
www.regionalconservation.org.

IRC is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.

For Collaboration Inquiries, please contact me!

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