



A private non-profit organization, The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) is based in Florida, USA, and works on conservation research and action throughout South Florida, the Caribbean and beyond. Our work is premised on an innovative idea of conservation that seeks to protect and restore viable populations of all plant and animal species within a region, rather than simply focusing on charismatic animals or plants with narrow global ranges.

IRC is dedicated to the protection, restoration and long term management of biodiversity on a regional basis, and to the prevention of regional extinctions of rare plants, animals and ecosystems.



[www.regionalconservation.org](http://www.regionalconservation.org)

*Partners Program: A tool for landowners*

The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) has continued to provide exotic species removal on pine rocklands through funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The *Partners Program* is a pro-active program that promotes voluntary participation by landowners and provides financial and technical assistance for planning and implementing habitat improvements on their property by IRC.

The Program allows IRC to conduct several education and outreach activities, including community presentations and educational workshops, volunteer and landowner workdays, educational pine rockland tours and student service learning opportunities, along with helping fund private landowners with the restoration of their pineland site.

For more information, please contact us and we will be more than happy to provide you with more information.



The Institute for Regional Conservation

**IRC Pine Rockland Initiative Program**

*For More Information Contact:*

**Maha Nusrat**

**IRC Pine Rockland Initiative  
Program Coordinator**

**Phone: 305-505-9192**

**E-mail: [mnusrat@regionalconservation.org](mailto:mnusrat@regionalconservation.org)  
[www.regionalconservation.org](http://www.regionalconservation.org)**



**The Institute For  
Regional Conservation**



***Pine Rockland Initiative  
Program***



[www.regionalconservation.org](http://www.regionalconservation.org)



## What is a Pine Rockland?

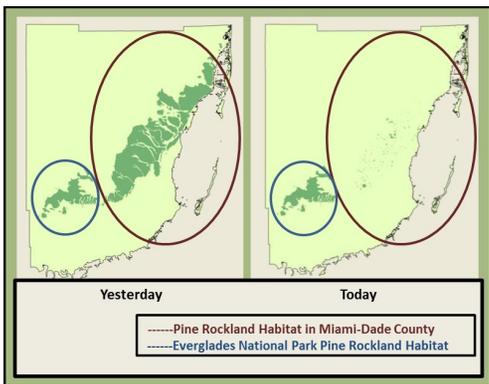
Pine Rockland is a globally critically imperiled ecosystem that exist only in South Florida and parts of the Caribbean. Pine rockland houses many rare and endemic plant and animal species, several of which are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act and also listed as threatened or endangered by the state of Florida.



Pine rockland is characterized by rocky limestone outcroppings, a canopy of Florida Slash Pine, and a diverse, herbaceous understory. The ecosystem is highly fire dependent, meaning that it must burn every few years for optimal health and biodiversity.



Pristine pine rocklands have all but disappeared due to development activities. Today only tiny fragments of the original ecosystem persist, representing less than 2% of the original extent of pine rockland ecosystem within Miami-Dade County's urban corridor. Existing fragments are threatened with habitat destruction by development, fire suppression, exotic plant invasions, illegal dumping and overall lack of protection and stewardship.



## What is the Pine Rockland Initiative?



The Pine Rockland Initiative is a program partially funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and administered by the Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC). The goal of the IRC Pine Rockland Initiative program is to help protect, restore, and manage the remaining pine rockland fragments and the species that occur within them. The program is especially designed to assist landowners and land managers with conservation, restoration and management of pine rockland habitat through applied conservation science and research, education and outreach, volunteer opportunities, and on-the-ground resource management activities such as invasive plant management and prescribed fire coordination.



### Pine Rockland Initiative Program Activities:

#### Eradication of Invasive Species—



Not all plants are beneficial to ecosystem health. Non-native invasive species are a real threat to pine rocklands. Plants such as Bra Brazilian-pepper and Burmameed must be managed.

#### Reintroduction of the Natural

**Fire Cycle—** Many ecosystems are fire dependent, meaning they are at their healthiest when they are burned intermittently. Through prescribed fire coordination, pine rockland should burn under controlled conditions to improve ecosystem health and to reduce hazardous fuel loads.



#### Planting of Native Species-

Areas of high disturbance can be planted to accelerate the restoration process and discourage re-recruitment of invasive species.

## Why Get Involved?

**Increase Habitat Potential**—Encourage a rich diversity of many different species of native birds, butterflies and other desirable wildlife.



**Improve Neighborhood Aesthetics—** Native wildflowers, trees, shrubs and grasses put on a year-round show for the community to enjoy.

**Lower Maintenance Costs**—Over time, habitat restoration now will decrease maintenance costs later.



**For Us and Our Children**—This is our heritage and makes us unique. Conservation helps ensure that great places still exist within our

neighborhoods for all generations of birders, hikers, naturalists and other recreationalists.



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



### How Can I Get Involved?

Private landowners, public land managers, students, educators, professionals, enthusiasts and other conservation stewards can

get involved in a variety of ways.

**Contact the IRC Pine Rockland Initiative Program Coordinator and Biologist Maha Nusrat: (305) 505-9192 or email [mnusrat@regionalconservation.org](mailto:mnusrat@regionalconservation.org) for more**

### Can I Donate To The Pine Rockland Initiative?

Tax deductible donations can be made specifically to the Pine Rockland Initiative Program on the IRC website at [www.regionalconservation.org](http://www.regionalconservation.org) or mailed to:

100 East Linton Blvd, Suite 302 B, Delray Beach, FL 33483. IRC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

**We Thank You For Your Support!**