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# Atlas Of Florida's Natural Heritage: Biodiversity, Landscapes, Stewardship, And Opportunities



## Synopsis

From the western panhandle coast and the Apalachicola bluffs and ravines to the central Florida dry prairies and the Florida Keys, the Sunshine State is a land rich in biodiversity. The Florida panther, the manatee, the orange blossom, and the sawgrass have become emblematic of our natural heritage, but living within the oft-ignored scrub communities are the less well-known Florida Rosemary and the Florida Scrub-Jay. The rare Bachman's sparrow and the globally imperiled bog frog make their homes in the world's largest remaining tracts of longleaf pine, while the barrier islands of the salt-marsh estuaries along the east coast provide safe harbor for the rare terrestrial peperomia and can offer visitors a once-in-a-lifetime glimpse of a North Atlantic right whale. However, our state's diverse flora and fauna face many challenges: habitat loss, invasive species, competing uses, drought, and climate change. *Atlas of Florida's Natural Heritage* provides overviews of the natural communities, the plants, and the animals that inhabit the state, as well as information on habitat modeling, ecological greenways, protecting natural areas, and land management. With more than 600 photos and over 200 maps, this book will be useful not only to scientists and policymakers, but also to residents and visitors interested in preserving Florida's beautiful and complex natural heritage.

## Book Information

Paperback: 162 pages

Publisher: Institute of Science and Public Affairs (May 21, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0960670866

ISBN-13: 978-0960670864

Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 0.4 x 11.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #174,566 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Ecosystems > Coastal #88 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Nature Travel > Ecotourism #161 in Books > Reference > Atlases & Maps > Atlases & Gazetteers

## Customer Reviews

"This book will be valuable tool for us all to make informed decisions about the future of our priceless natural environment." • Eric J. Barron, Ph.D., president of Florida State

University. From the western panhandle coast and the Apalachicola bluffs and ravines to the central Florida dry prairies and the Florida Keys, the Sunshine State is a land rich in biodiversity. The Florida panther, the manatee, the orange blossom, and the sawgrass have become emblematic of our natural heritage, but living within the oft-ignored scrub communities are the less well-known Florida Rosemary and the Florida Scrub-Jay. The rare Bachman's sparrow and the globally imperiled bog frog make their homes in the world's largest remaining tracts of longleaf pine, while the barrier islands of the salt-marsh estuaries along the east coast provide safe harbor for the rare terrestrial peperomia and can offer visitors a once-in-a-lifetime glimpse of a North Atlantic right whale. However, our state's diverse flora and fauna face many challenges: habitat loss, invasive species, competing uses, drought, and climate change. *Atlas of Florida's Natural Heritage* provides overviews of the natural communities, the plants, and the animals that inhabit the state, as well as information on habitat modeling, ecological greenways, protecting natural areas, and land management. With more than 600 photos and over 200 maps, this book will be useful not only to scientists and policymakers, but also to residents and visitors interested in preserving Florida's beautiful and complex natural heritage. Gary R. Knight is Director of Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), a trusted and comprehensive source for information and expertise on Florida's ecological resources. Over the past 30 years, FNAI has established a record of providing independent, objective, scientific information to government agencies, private firms, conservation groups, researchers, and the general public.

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Gave to oldest son, wow, he shared with his family and it has changed their viewpoint of Florida and its nature.

I was given this book by parents of my students right after it was published. I have since used it both personally and professionally. With my students, it became a valuable go-to knowledge base for understanding big picture ecological ideas as well as for unpacking/exploring specifics about Florida's numerous ecological niches. The information is in-depth, research based, and yet very accessible no matter one's level of knowledge about natural systems. The cartography is brilliant,

engaging, and offers no shortage of new ways to explore ecosystems, habitats, and the inhabitants within them. The images and layout are thoughtfully designed, with the user/reader in mind. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in Florida's ecological heritage and in the intersection of biology, geography, climatology and geology. You'll develop a new appreciation for Florida as well as for emerging trends in studying landscapes and the flora and fauna therein.

This is a must have for anyone who lives in Florida or who is interested in the Sunshine State. It is a great resource for professionals such as teachers, academics, engineers, environmentalists, researchers, etc. For lay people it is an engrossing and fascinating read. I picked it up just to glance through, read the captions and look at the photos and I could not put it down. Anyone who wants to understand and appreciate the core Florida should read this book. It also helps understand the challenges facing the state's natural world.

The original idea of this atlas was stolen from someone I know. The original person who thought of this atlas was given no credit at all.

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