

LIQUID

gold

THE WORTH OF WETLANDS



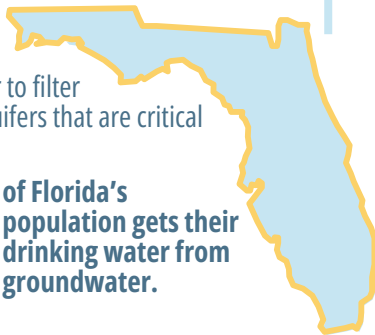
5-10% of the world's land surface are wetlands.

MORE THAN 70% HAVE BEEN DESTROYED OR IMPAIRED.

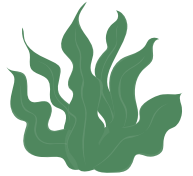
Wetlands allow water to filter into groundwater aquifers that are critical to our water supply.

91%

of Florida's population gets their drinking water from groundwater.



WETLANDS ARE FOUNDATIONAL



to human health, water quality, drinking water resources, floodwater protection, fish and wildlife habitats, and resilience against the effects of climate change.

UP TO 90%

OF THE SEDIMENTS FROM RUNOFF CAN BE REMOVED IF IT PASSES THROUGH WETLANDS.

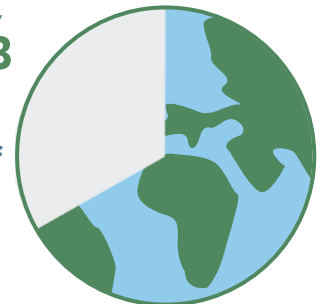


ONE ACRE OF WETLAND CAN STORE OVER ONE MILLION GALLONS OF FLOOD WATER. WETLANDS HOLD THESE WATERS AND RELEASE THEM GRADUALLY.



MORE THAN 1/3

of the threatened and endangered species in the United States are found only in wetlands, and **more than half** rely on wetlands as part of their life cycle or routine habitat.



1/3 WETLANDS CONTAIN ABOUT 1/3 OF THE WORLD'S CARBON.

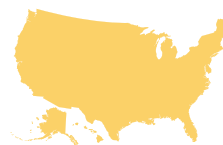
When wetlands degrade, the emissions locked in their soils are released.



AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE AND MOST THREATENED HABITATS



Wetlands in the United States decreased by **53%** from the 1780s to the 1980s. These losses were largely due to water diversion and development.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported to Congress in 1989 that **22 states** had already lost more than **50%** of their wetland acreage.

In 2017, EPA reported to Congress that 32% of our remaining wetlands were in poor biological condition.



The Conservancy of Southwest Florida is fighting to protect our precious wetlands. To find out more about our battle to save Florida's wetlands, visit conservancy.org/404.

Full report and sources available at conservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/LiquidGoldWetlands.pdf.