



Newsletter of Forest Animal Rescue (formerly known as Peace River Refuge & Ranch)



Update on THREE little bears, orphaned in Louisiana

As part of our animal welfare program, Forest Animal Rescue works with wildlife officials to rehabilitate and release black bear cubs.

The three orphaned cubs that we accepted for rehabilitation from the State of Louisiana last August were finally released back in beautiful bear country in Louisiana! We treated and nurtured the three cubs, *Iris*, *June*, and *Kyle*, for almost 10 months.

They had grown so much, and with their health restored and with bountiful natural food available at their release site, they were ready to take on their freedom.

We returned them to Louisiana to be released into their natural habitat.

Happily ever after!



THE RESPECT THEY DESERVE

Forest Animal Rescue (FAR) is dedicated to meeting the lifetime needs of all wild animals:

- Releasable wild animals deserve to be restored to health and returned to the wild
 - We rehabilitate black bears and return them to the authorities that bring them to us for re-release
 - We work with dozens of rehabilitation facilities to release other native wildlife on our acreage property, where they have a chance to safely reacclimate to life in the wild
- Helping to ensure that rescued, non-releasable animals (usually born in captivity) receive:
 - lifetime care at an accredited sanctuary
 - a healthful, natural diet
 - quality veterinary care when needed
 - a firm “no breeding” policy
 - socialization and enrichment appropriate to each animal’s preferences, and
 - protection from further victimization

Socialize with FAR: www.ForestAnimalRescue.org

 Instagram.com/forestanimalrescue	 Facebook.com/forestanimalrescue	 Twitter.com/ForestAnimalRes	 Youtube.com/ForestanimalrescueOrg
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Great news! The Big Cat Public Safety Act is already having a positive impact!

The "Big Cat Public Safety Act" (BCPSA) was signed into law a year ago. It strengthens existing laws to prohibit the possession of tigers, lions, and other big cat species except by qualified entities, such as accredited sanctuaries and AZA Zoos.

Current private owners are allowed to keep their animals. However, they must register them with the government to ensure that first responders and animal control officers know these animals are in their communities.



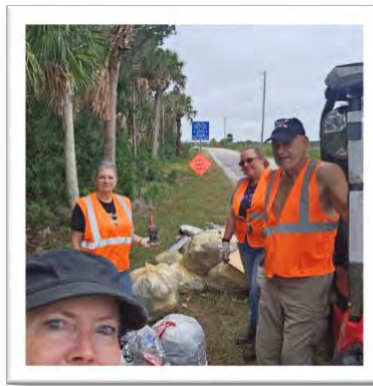
The BCPSA also restricts public contact with these species, curbing commercial photo-ops, petting, and similar activities that undermine animal care and welfare, which increases the demand for sanctuary placement for these animals. This law has already resulted in a decline in large carnivores in the wrong hands. *That is music to our ears!*

Highway cleanup in Crystal River went wonderfully!

(You can sign up to help with our highway cleanups on our website)



The eagles were supervising as we cleaned up their home



Half of the crew remembered to take a selfie



As always, our smallest volunteer, #FARGNOME helped out!

Recycling to benefit the animals

Did you know you can donate unwanted clothing, shoes, and small household goods to help Forest Animal Rescue?

We have collection bins in various locations in Silver Springs and surrounding communities. A recycling service collects the contents, and a portion of the proceeds is donated to help the animals!

A list of our community partners that are hosting a space for our bins in their parking lots is on our website at

<https://www.forestanimalrescue.org/recycling/>



Program expansion at Forest Animal Rescue

We are excited about the opportunity to expand one of our oldest and most favorite programs!

Since our inception 25 years ago, we have provided countless native animals with protected wild habitat for safe release after rehabilitation.

Working with wildlife rehabilitators from around the state, we assist with releasing animals that cannot be returned to where they were orphaned or injured. It is always best to release rehabilitated wildlife back where the animals were found, but with the never-ending development in Florida, it is becoming more common for injured wildlife to be found in shopping plazas and development sites, and it is unsafe for them to be released back there. Since rehabilitators cannot release these animals on public land, we provide a solution. We restore and manage the wildlife habitat on our protected parcels of land so the animals have a safe place to be released.

Thankfully, with the recent passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act (BCPSA), the number of large carnivores needing sanctuary homes has dwindled. As a result, several sanctuaries have begun to consolidate resources. Effective in 2024, we too, are adjusting our animal care program to focus our resources on the indigenous species that need our help and the natural habitat they require.

We have recently acquired another piece of property in the Ocala National Forest, and we are restoring the habitat to provide yet another protected site for the safe release of small native animals and deer. We restore and maintain the native trees and plants, provide a safe space, and ensure that there is no risk of exposing the animals to human activity, harm from hunters, herbicides, or pesticides.

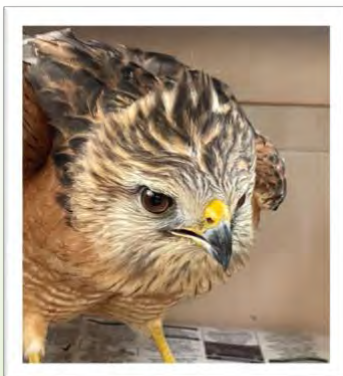
One significant benefit to being part of a large network of true sanctuaries is the ability to guarantee lifetime care to all non-releasable animals we have rescued, even as we make this shift to make more efficient use of the support we receive. We will continue to network and assist with the rescue of non-native, captive wild animals as well as helping programs that benefit wildlife around the world.

We look forward to sharing our updates with you as we restore and protect parcels of native land to properly support the native wildlife, release rehabilitated animals onto that land, and continue our rehabilitation of wild bear cubs (to be returned to state biologists for release on government land)

Nothing is more rewarding than seeing a wild animal restored to proper health, happily disappear into the wilderness.

ALL wild animals DESERVE our help

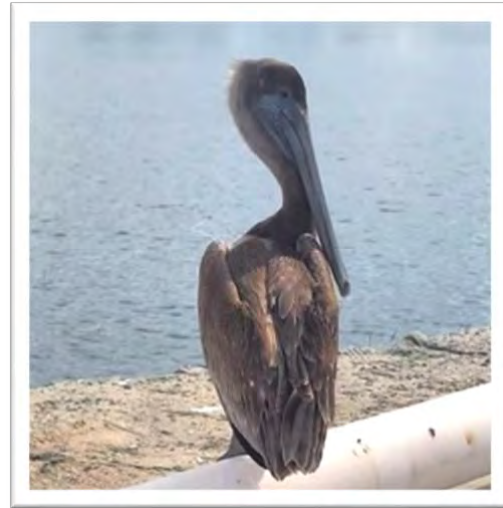
Forest Animal Rescue released three red-shouldered hawks on our protected land



Three red-shouldered hawks were rehabilitated at UF, then sent to Nature World Wildlife Rescue to ensure they could fly properly before release. Once they were ready to go, Forest Animal Rescue handled their release on our land. **Teamwork!!**

Turkeys at the sanctuary had a safe Thanksgiving!

They certainly know where it is safe during hunting season...these cuties were hanging out at the sanctuary on Thanksgiving Day to help us celebrate.

Pelican with a hook in his bill, was treated and released

This lucky guy was in need of help in Crystal River and we weren't right there. Nature World Wildlife Rescue came straight out to help. He was released the same day with another pelican that was ready to go and needed a friend.

When you use your cell phone, do you think about GORILLAS?

It's almost impossible to get by without a mobile phone in today's world, but they're wreaking havoc for these primates. The critically endangered Grauer's gorilla has lost 80 percent of its population in the last 20 years, partly due to mining minerals used to make cell phones.

Gorillas are "teetering on the edge of extinction," says Sonya Kahlenberg, executive director of the Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Center, based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Among the chief culprits is small-scale "artisanal" mining in the Congo Basin. This mining, which Kahlenberg says is "often illegal or linked with armed groups," not only threatens gorilla habitat, but miners also illegally hunt wildlife, including gorillas, for food. One of the primary minerals extracted here is coltan, an ore used in mobile phones and other electronic devices to help store electricity.

People will discard over 150 million devices this year. These devices contain toxic substances, including Arsenic, Antimony, Beryllium, Cadmium, Copper, Lead, Nickel, and Zinc, which leach into soil and groundwater.

THE GOOD NEWS:

Mobile devices can be redistributed or refurbished, and almost every part is recyclable! Recycling your phone costs you nothing and contributes to the well-being of our planet, helping keep toxins from contaminating our Earth.

Cellphone recycling programs are one easy way for consumers to help reduce the amount of conflict minerals extracted to produce electronics. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, fewer than 20 percent of unwanted cell phones are recycled yearly – **Let's help change that together!**

Forest Animal Rescue has a cell phone and small electronics recycling box at each of the Marion County (FL) Tax Collector's offices. If you cannot find a place to recycle your old phone, please mail it to us, and we will do it for you!

YES-I WILL HELP!!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

I am enclosing my tax-deductible donation to Forest Animal Rescue for \$ _____

Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$ _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____ CVV Code: _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Please earmark my gift: **General fund/Where it is needed most** Animal rescue and lifetime needs

Winter 2023

Other _____

Make this a recurring monthly gift, ending on (date) _____

(One-time and recurring donations can also be made securely at ForestAnimalRescue.org)

Please contact me to discuss a tax-deductible contribution of equipment or materials

Please contact me regarding a planned gift to The Legacy Society

Peace River Refuge & Ranch, Inc. dba Forest Animal Rescue is a Florida nonprofit charitable corporation. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) OR www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State. Florida Registration CH9372. We are tax exempt under IRS 501(c)(3), EIN 65-0864695.

Our Monthly Donors Keep Us Going

Sharing your pocket change with the animals allows us to budget for our ongoing programs without sacrificing new growth. Donations may be made automatically from your bank account or credit card – you can set it and forget it!

If you are one of our special friends who has already signed up – *THANK YOU!*

If we continue having a few new supporters sign up for recurring gifts each month, we will stay on track with our ever-increasing cost of helping rescued wild animals. *Will you help?*

TO SET UP MONTHLY GIFTS ONLINE:

Simply visit our website at www.ForestAnimalRescue.org and give using any donate button on our site. When you check “Recurring Donation,” your gifts will be repeated automatically from your credit card or bank account. You receive an email confirmation and remain in complete control over the frequency, amount and when your recurring gifts end. We will mail you a year-end recap of your donations for tax purposes.

TO SET UP MONTHLY GIFTS BY MAIL:

Simply fill out the coupon at the end of this newsletter with your credit card information and check the box to make it a monthly gift and mail it to us. We will process it from here and send a year-end recap of your donations for tax purposes.