



South  
Florida  
Ecosystem  
Restoration

**Land Acquisition Strategy**

**Second Edition**

**Land Acquisition Task Team**

December 1, 2004

Presentation prepared by

Muller and Associates, Inc. with the  
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration  
Task Force staff

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy First Edition

✦ Prepared in  
response to  
GAO report of  
April 2000

GAO

United States General Accounting Office  
Report to Congressional Requesters

April 2000

## SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

A Land Acquisition  
Plan Would Help  
Identify Lands That  
Need to Be Acquired



GAO/RCED-00-84

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy First Edition

## Purposes:

- ✦ provide information on the real estate needed to accomplish the ecosystem restoration goals
- ✦ identify a proposed strategy for fulfilling these requirements
- ✦ promote coordinated action to accomplish the land acquisition goals for the restoration effort

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy First Edition

## WRAC participation:

- ✦ WRAC Land Acquisition Committee – meetings in July, August 2002 – provided comments on draft of the first edition
- ✦ WRAC – submitted comments to Task Force, accepted in October 2002
- ✦ Land Acquisition Task Team (LATT) was instructed by Task Force to revise the draft to incorporate WRAC's recommendations

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy First Edition

## WRAC participation (cont'd)

WRAC's recommendations – include:

- ✦ discussion of less than fee acquisitions through easements
- ✦ information on local government acquisition programs
- ✦ payment in lieu of taxes

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy First Edition

- ✦ Task Force members recognized WRAC's review prior to acceptance of the Strategy
- ✦ Land Acquisition Strategy accepted by South Florida Ecosystem Task Force in February 2004

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration

## Land Acquisition Strategy

### Second Edition

- ✦ WRAC members who served on the Land Acquisition Committee – now on the Land Acquisition Task Team's *interested parties list*
- ✦ In July 2004, the Team sent out a *draft of the second edition* of the strategy to its members and the interested parties list requesting review and comment
- ✦ On November 5, the LATT sent a revised draft to the Task Force, Working Group and WRAC for comment by November 22
- ✦ WRAC was briefed at their November 8 meeting

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Second Edition - Draft

## **New coverage**

### Alternative Tools to Meet Restoration Land Use Needs

- Rural Land Stewardship Program
- Easements
- Temporary Lease Agreements
- Mitigation Banks
- Public Private Partnerships

### County-level land acquisition programs and a full accounting of local government contributions to SFWMD, DEP and CERP land acquisition projects

### Mitigating the Loss of Tax Revenue through payment in lieu of taxes and the USFWS Revenue Sharing program

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Second Edition - Draft

## **New coverage** (cont'd)

- ✦ All three goals of the South Florida ecosystem restoration:
  - ✦ Get the Water Right
  - ✦ Restore, Preserve & Protect Natural Habitats and Species
  - ✦ Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems (*new coverage*)
- ✦ All data are current as of June 30, 2004

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Second Edition - Draft

## Progress made – Habitat Projects

- ✦ In September 2002, 5.8 million acres identified as needed for natural habitat protection with 4.9 million acres acquired by the state, federal and local governments.
- ✦ This estimate has been further refined to lands within the boundary of the SFWMD - now 5.8 million acres with 4.9 million acquired.
- ✦ Acquisition is now complete for twelve (12) habitat projects, totaling 76,166 acres.

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Second Edition - Draft

## Progress – Water Projects

- ✦ 462,372 acres were identified in September 2002, with 234,790 acres acquired.
- ✦ Estimated land acquisition needs for water projects has been refined and is now 483,805 with 271,853 acres acquired.
- ✦ The SFWMD is the lead agency on these acquisitions.

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Second Edition - Draft

## Progress (cont'd)

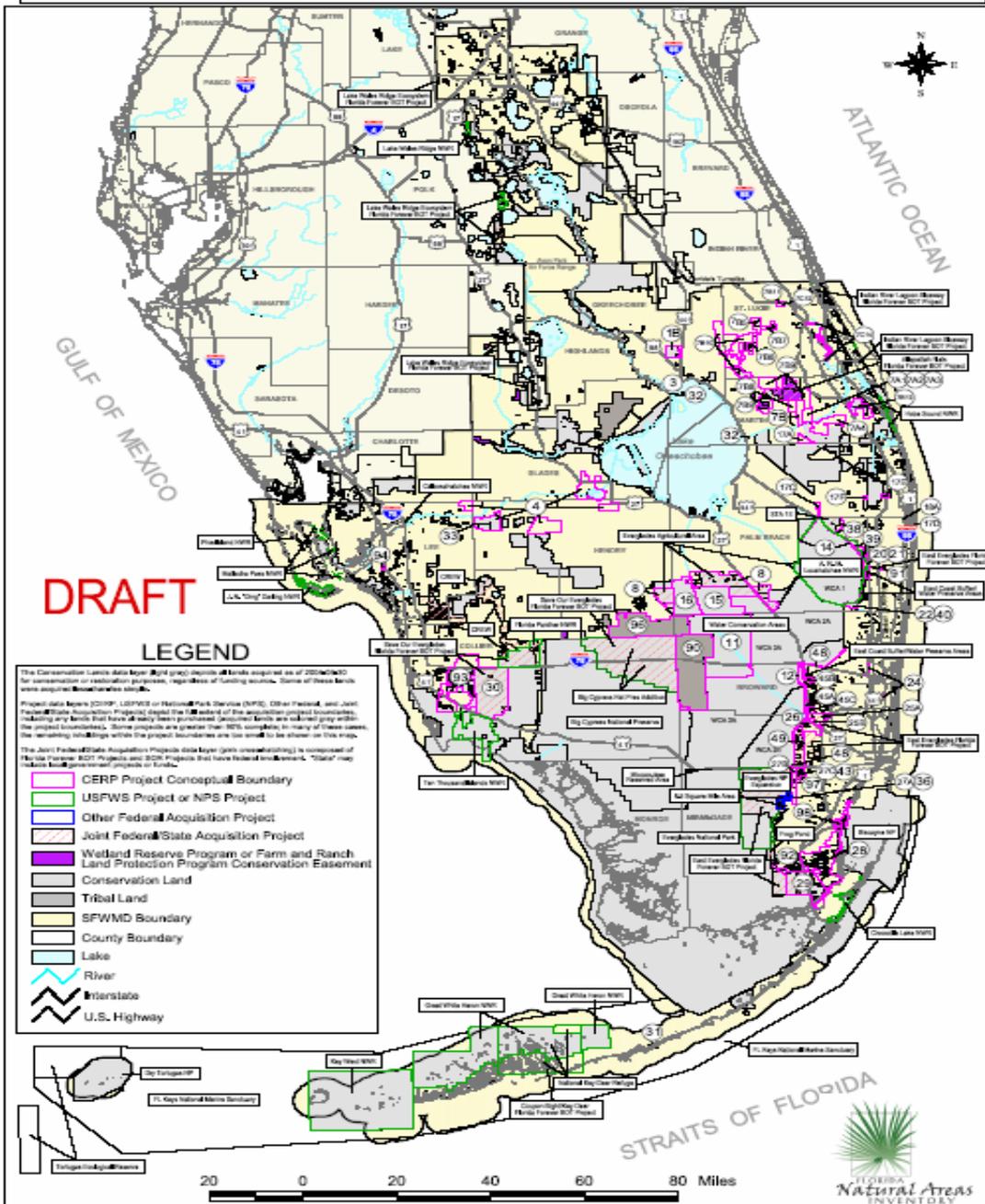
✦ Since the passage of the federal Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill), 28,021 acres of south Florida wetlands have been enrolled in either the *Wetlands Reserve Program* or the *Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program*, protecting an important part of Florida's economy while contributing to ecosystem restoration.

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Second Edition - Draft

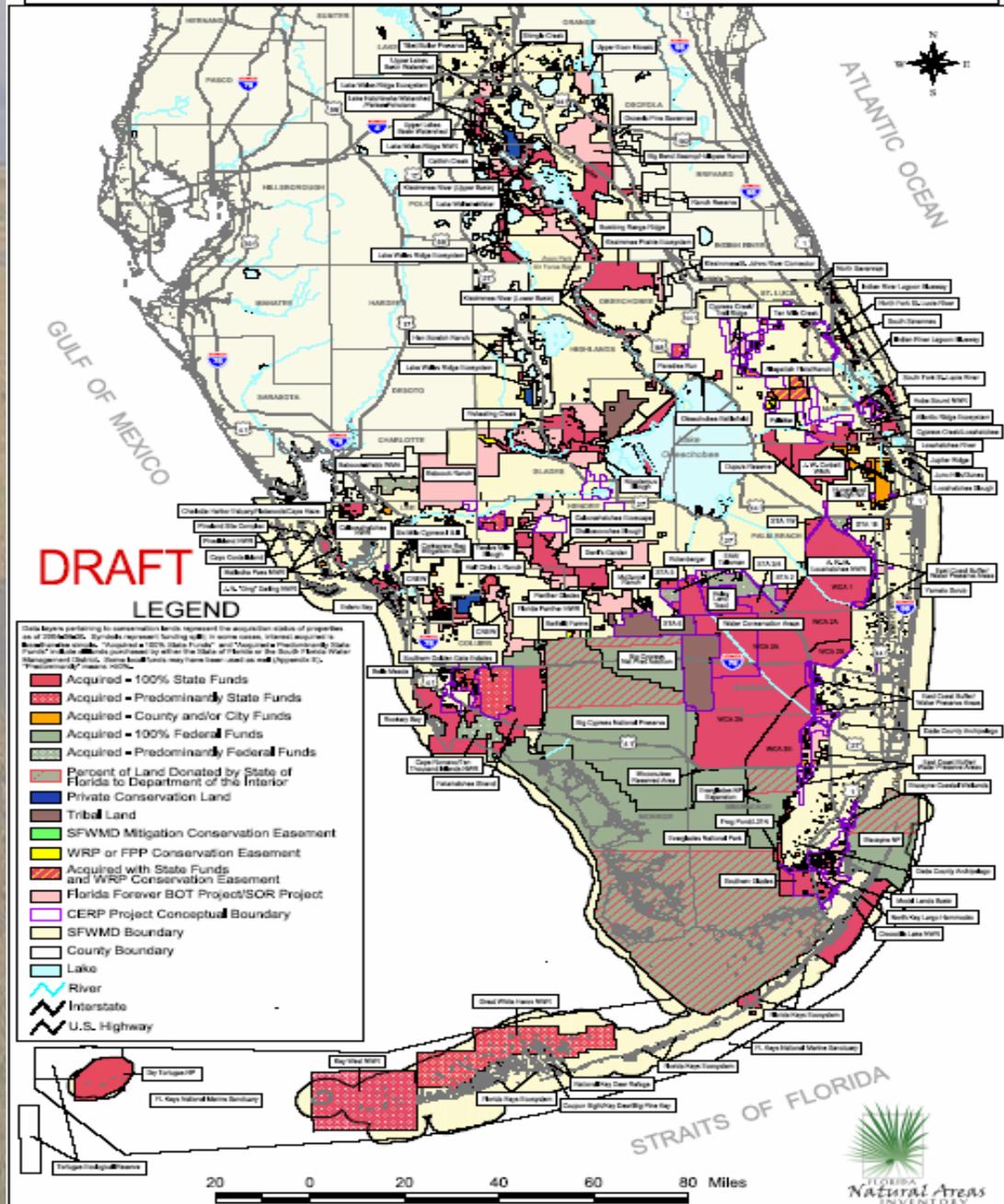
## Progress (cont'd)

- ✦ A full discussion of county-level land acquisition programs is now included in the LAS as a separate appendix
- ✦ All local government contributions to water and habitat projects are clearly identified.
- ✦ Discussion of the Florida's Greenways and Trails Program also in Appendix E

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Federal Projects and Joint Federal/State Projects



# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Update



# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration

## Land Acquisition Strategy

### Second Edition - Draft

- ✦ Edits were requested by the Miccosukee Tribe, Lee County Smart Growth Director, FDEP, the Seminole Tribe and WRAC members
- ✦ The final draft of the second edition of the Land Acquisition Strategy is presented today to the Task Force for acceptance

