



South

Florida

Ecosystem

Restoration

Land Acquisition Strategy

Land Acquisition Task Team

Government Accounting Office Report

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

GAO Recommendations

“To ensure that the lands needed to accomplish the goals of the SFER initiative are identified and acquired...”

- ✦ an assessment of the lands needed to accomplish each of the goals of the restoration
- ✦ a description of the purpose for which the lands will be acquired and how they will be managed
- ✦ an estimate of the cost of these lands
- ✦ an estimate of when the lands will be needed for related restoration projects
- ✦ the agencies responsible for acquiring the lands

Working Group:

“Land acquisition is critical to South Florida ecosystem restoration efforts.”

Land is needed:

- ✦ preserve habitat for native plants and animals
- ✦ act as a buffer to existing natural areas
- ✦ water quality treatment areas
- ✦ water storage reservoirs
- ✦ aquifer recharge areas

Working Group Guidance

The plan will focus on acquisition efforts for lands where there is a federal or joint interest

Recommendations

GAO

✦ an assessment of the lands needed to accomplish each of the goals of the restoration

Working Group

✦ an assessment of the lands with both joint state and federal interest needed to accomplish each of the goals of the restoration

Working Group Guidance

- ✦ The plan will focus on those federal or joint requirements supportive of Goal 1 (surface water storage reservoirs and ASR facilities) and Goal 2 (habitat protection).
- ✦ The plan will be limited to those lands that will be acquired with federal funds or as part of a federally cost shared project.
- ✦ The plan will be updated to reflect changes and additions to the restoration initiative's land acquisition needs.

Working Group Guidance

- ✦ The plan will not infringe on existing missions, authorities or jurisdictions of the participating agencies.
- ✦ The plan should include other related state, district, local government, or non-governmental organization land acquisition projects in an appendix as appropriate.

Task Team Members

✦ EOG (Co-chair)

✦ FDEP (Co-Chair)

✦ SFWMD

✦ FWC

✦ SWFRPC

✦ Miami-Dade

✦ Palm Beach

✦ Broward

✦ NPS

✦ NWR

✦ USACE

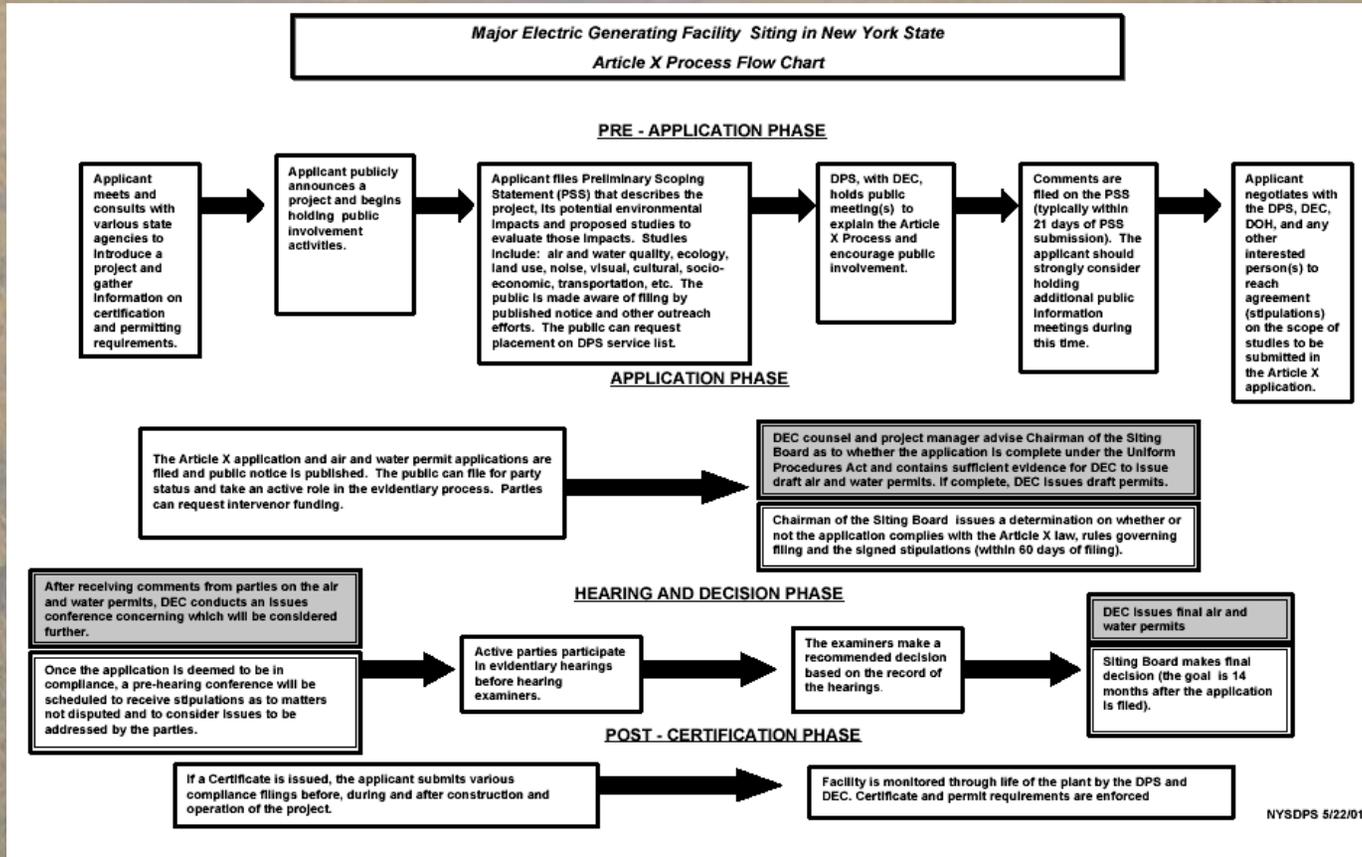
✦ USDA

✦ Office of
Executive
Director, Task
Force

Additional Support and Participation

- ✦ Muller and Associates, Inc.
- ✦ Florida Natural Areas Inventory
- ✦ FDEP Division of State Lands
- ✦ Department of Community Affairs

Approach



Approach

- ✦ Land Acquisition Task Team (LATT) meetings/conference calls
- ✦ Agree on approach, information needed
- ✦ Project Profiles - Decide on content and layout; each agency completes profiles on its projects
- ✦ Maps and tables – decide on categories of lands to represent; review and revise drafts

Status

- ✦ Map of federal and joint federal-state projects - near final form
- ✦ Comprehensive map of conservation land acquisition in South Florida - near final form
- ✦ Comprehensive table of conservation land acquisition in South Florida - near final form
- ✦ Land Acquisition Strategy - in draft stage, being revised by LATT

Land Acquisition Strategy

✦ INTRODUCTION

- ✦ Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)
- ✦ South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER)
- ✦ South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force)
- ✦ Land Acquisition
- ✦ Land Acquisition Plans and Coordination
- ✦ Government Accounting Office Report (GAO Report)
- ✦ SFER Land Acquisition Strategy

Land Acquisition Strategy

✦ SFER FEDERAL/JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGY

- ◆ Land Acquisition Funding
- ◆ Assessment of Lands
 - **Goal 1: Get the water right – CERP identification efforts**

Land Acquisition Strategy

✦ SFER FEDERAL/JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGY

◆ Assessment of Lands

- **Goal 2: Restore, preserve, and protect natural habitats and species**
 - ◆ FWC reports, e.g., Closing the Gaps
 - ◆ FNAI reports, e.g. Conservation Needs Assessment
 - ◆ MERIT
 - ◆ Regional/local e.g. SWFRPC Strategic Land Acquisition Plan

Land Acquisition Strategy

✦ SFER FEDERAL/JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGY

◆ Assessment of Lands

- **Goal 3: Foster compatibility of the built and natural systems**
 - ◆ Local programs
 - ◆ Local projects with state funds, e.g. FCT, FRDAP, LWCF

Land Acquisition Strategy

✦ SFER FEDERAL/JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGY

◆ Project Profiles

- **One Profile for each project**
- **Provides information suggested by GAO**
- **Provides additional information to enhance coordination on multi-agency projects**

Land Acquisition Strategy

✦ SFER FEDERAL/JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGY

- ◆ Map of Federal and Joint Federal-State Projects
 - **Each project will be illustrated on the map**
 - **Accompanying table will provide information on each project**

>>insert map of federal and
joint federal-state projects



Land Acquisition Strategy

✦ SFER LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

- ✦ Appendix to provide context for the Federal and joint Federal-State Projects
- ✦ Map and table produced by FDEP of State and Federal holdings and land acquisition projects
 - **Each current holding and land acquisition project will be illustrated on the map, indicating source of acquisition funds**
 - **Accompanying table will provide information on each project**

SFER Land Acquisition Update map (Graham map) Table

✦ Provides cost and acres for:

- ◆ National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service conservation properties & projects
- ◆ SFWMD Save Our Rivers and State conservation holdings and projects and Florida Communities Trust properties & projects
- ◆ Includes only CERP projects where they overlap with projects listed above (others will be added)

Land Acquisition Strategy

✦ SFER FEDERAL/JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGY

◆ Land Cost Estimates - **CAUTIONS**

- **Only for the federal and joint federal-state projects that have been identified at this time**
- **Some estimates are still to be determined**
- **Not all projects have been identified, e.g., CERP and NWR identification processes**
- **Not all estimates use the same estimation method, e.g., full costs related to land acquisition vs. Fair Market Value**

Land Acquisition Strategy

✦ SFER FEDERAL/JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGY

- ◆ Agencies responsible for acquiring the lands
- ◆ Land acquisition timing

Land Acquisition Strategy

✦ LAND ACQUISITION PROGRESS

- ◆ Being calculated on a per project basis, as well as overall

Land Acquisition Strategy

✦ FUTURE EFFORTS

- ◆ Recommendations being discussed by LATT

Suggested Land Acquisition Strategy Review Process

- ✦ Circulate draft strategy to working group and those on the land acquisition strategy interested parties list
- ✦ Notify parties of Land Acquisition Task Team meeting to review the Strategy
- ✦ Conduct Task Team meeting with full participation from all interested parties
- ✦ Bring Strategy to Working Group for final approval

Sunrise slide – a beginning,
not an end

